

Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 120A

Professor Christy Mag Uidhir (maguidhir@moravian.edu)

Required Text: *Introduction to Philosophy*, Perry & Bratman ed. 3rd Edition Office Z-Dorf 203, Hours: TR 11-Noon, WF by appointment

Course Goal: This course will provide the student a solid foundation in the principle areas of traditional Anglo-American (Analytic) philosophy. Although a wide range of topics will be covered, the aim is to familiarise the student with the basic questions in philosophy so that a general idea of the study of philosophy can be gleaned as well as facilitating further study in the fields covered. Most importantly, students will be introduced and become practised in the type of thinking philosophy requires, and this will be of service regardless if the students choose to pursue philosophy further. The areas covered will be Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science.

Expectations: All readings must be completed prior to the class period in which they will be discussed. All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. No late work will be accepted without a dean's approval. I am not an arbiter of excuses, so if you think your absence is warranted, talk to your dean, then your dean can talk to me. There is no extra credit. The grade of A is for exceptional work, B for good work, C for average work, and D and F for failure.

Grades: 40% (Quizzes)—the quizzes can be given at any time and will cover only the material assigned for the day the quiz is taken. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Exams: (60%)—there will be three exams over the course of the semester and each will count for 20% of your final grade. The exams will be short-essay question format.

Week One: General Introduction and Philosophy as a Discipline

Aug 29th-Aug 31st Russell 9-11, Smart 12-19

Week Two: Problem of Evil

Sept. 5th- Sept. 7th- Hume 57-90, Pike 93-102, Mackie 103-110

Week Three: Epistemology

Sept. 12th- Sept. 14th- Descartes 116-138, Hume 176-189

Week Four: Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics

Sept. 19th- Sept. 21st- Ryle 316-323, Armstrong 324-330, Lewis 331-336, Dennett 337- 348, Churchland 349-353

Week Five: M&M Cont.

Sept. 26th-Sept. 28th- Putnam 354, Turing 355-367, Searle 368-281

Week Six: M&M Cont.

Oct. 3rd- Nagel 382-389, Jackson 390-393, Lewis 394-395

Oct. 5th- **1st Exam**

Week Seven: M&M Cont.

Oct 10th- **No Class**, Oct. 12th- Perry 396-416

Week Eight: M&M and Ethics

Oct.17th- Oct. 19th- Taylor 437-449, Strawson 460-474, Bentham and Mill 483-502

Week Nine: Ethics Cont.

Oct. 24th-Oct. 26th- Smart 505-511, Williams 512-520, Singer 521-528

Week Ten: Ethics Cont.

Oct. 31st- Nov 2nd- Kant 529-545, O'Neill and Nagel 546-563

Week Eleven: Ethics Cont.

Nov 7th-Nov 9th- My Birthday. Rawls and Nozick 598-618, Cohen and Scheffler 619-649

Week Twelve: Exam and Ethics Cont.

Nov 14th- **2nd Exam** Nov. 16th- Hume 715-738

Week Thirteen: Ethics Cont.

Nov. 21st- Gauthier and Mackie 739-752 Nov. 23rd- **No Class**

Week Fourteen: Ethics Cont. and Philosophy of Science

Nov. 28th-Nov. 30th- Harman and Sturgeon 765-784, Salmon 230-251, Goodman 791

Week Fifteen: Philosophy of Science

Dec. 5th-Dec. 7th- Anscombe 252-262, Anderson 284-304

Final Exam Dec. 14th