

## PHIL 394 Nature of Reality or Free Will and Personal Identity

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Office Hours: 203 Z-dorf, T-R 11-Noon, W-F by appointment

**Required Text:** *Free Will*, Watson ed., *Personal Identity*, Perry ed., *The Self*, Strawson ed. (back ordered)

**Course Goal:** Rather than offer an introduction to metaphysics, this course is designed to give the student an in-depth look at the foundational issues in free will and personal identity. The topics we will cover are free will, determinism, compatibilism, responsibility, personal identity, persistence of persons, fission cases, and the self. Some familiarity with the issues, with philosophy in general, and with philosophical writing is presumed. This is dense, difficult material. Do not presume that you will be able to understand the readings on your own, so if you are having trouble, please ask for help either during class, during my office hours, or via email.

**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. You are allowed to miss two classes without penalty. After the two class allowance is exhausted you will be docked half a letter grade for each class missed. 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:** There will be four papers and one presentation assigned throughout the course.

One 5-7pg paper and one 10-12pg paper for the Free Will section and one 5-7pg paper and one 10-12pg paper for the Personal Identity section. The 5-7pg papers are each worth 15% of your final grade and the 10-12pg papers are each worth 25% of your final grade.

Presentation: Student will present (teach the class) on a particular reading. Student will also submit a 5pg summary/critical analysis of said reading. The presentation is worth 20% of your final grade.

### Schedule:

Week One (FW Reader): Aug 29<sup>th</sup>-Aug 31<sup>st</sup>- Introduction, Chisholm 26-37

Week Two: Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>- van Inwagen 38-57, Smart & Strawson 58-94

Week Three: Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>- Wiggins & Lewis 94-129, Bok 130-166

Week Four: Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>- Frankfurt & Widerker 167-189, Fischer 190-211 (**19<sup>th</sup>—1<sup>st</sup>**

**Presentation Due on Frankfurt Paper)**

Week Five: Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>- **First Paper Due**, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>- Strawson 212-228, Nagel 229-256

Week Six: Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>-Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>- O'Connor 257-284, Clarke 285-298

Week Seven: Oct 10<sup>th</sup>- **No Class**, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>- Kane 299-321

Week Eight: Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>- Frankfurt 322-336, Watson 337-351, Wolf 372-387

Week Nine (PI Reader): Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>- **Second Paper Due**, Oct-26<sup>th</sup> Williams 75-91

Week Ten: Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Nozick 92-114, Parfit 115-143

Week Eleven: Nov 7<sup>th</sup>- My Birthday. Huzzah!-Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Lewis 144-**167 (7<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> presentation due on Lewis Paper)** Unger 184-198

Week Twelve: Nov 14<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Sosa 199-215, Martin 216-237

Week Thirteen: Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> **Third Paper Due**, Johnston 260-291, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>-**No Class**

Week Fourteen: Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Parfit 292-334, Olson 318-334

Week Fifteen: Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Strawson 335-377 (**5<sup>th</sup>—Final Presentation Due on Strawson Paper)**

**Final Paper Due Dec. 14th**