PHIL 1301-10: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
FALL 2018

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

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Email: sbadiola@angelo.edu
Office Phone: (325) 486-6105
Office Hours: MW: 11:00AM-2:00PM; TR: 11:00AM-12:00PM

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can come and visit, call me or send me an email. Let me know if we need to schedule an appointment for a different time that is convenient for both. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a general overview of what philosophy does. We will explore questions such as: Why is philosophy relevant? How do we do philosophy? Can we be certain of what we know? Who are we? Our mind? Our body? Both? If so, how are mind and body related? Can we be held responsible for our actions? Could we have done otherwise given our background, our biological and psychological constitution? Can we prove the existence of God by means of rational argument? And finally, does life have meaning? What is the meaning of life?

In order to approach these questions we will combine lectures, discussions, readings, writing, and movie forums. The text-book mentioned below provides introductions to the philosophical problems we will be dealing with, a wide variety of classic and contemporary texts, and some helpful comments to guide your reading. Please remember it also has a glossary to help you decipher technical philosophical words and an appendix with some important tips to write a good philosophical essay.

This course is introductory in character. However you should keep in mind that introductory does not mean simple. As P. F. Strawson put it, “there is no shallow end to the philosophical pool.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to fundamental terminology and philosophical concerns and with the way central figures in the history of philosophy have thought about those concerns.
2. To help develop fundamental philosophical skills, such as examination and critique of arguments to better produce their own

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Students will be able to identify and understand different perspectives and problems linked to a philosophical issue (such as, but not limited to, the problem of the external world, other minds or the good life), and they will be able to analyze, and critically evaluate different perspectives on those issues (CT1)
2. Students will be able to effectively communicate in writing the philosophical topics discussed in class (CS1)
3. Students will tailor communication strategies to effectively express, listen, and adapt to others to establish relationships to further civic action (SR2)
4. Students will be able to critically evaluate their personal viewpoints as they understand the consequences of their choices Students will be able to (PR1)

**STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Assessment Type</th>
<th>SLO Assessed</th>
<th>Weight as a Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>CT1, CS1, SR2, PR1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple-Choice Quizzes</td>
<td>CT1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>CT1, CS1, SR2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Attendance*, reading assignments, discussion</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top Hat</td>
<td>CT1, PR1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Indirect Assessment (IDEA)</th>
<th>SLO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)</td>
<td>CT1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing knowledge and understanding of other diverse perspectives, global awareness or other cultures</td>
<td>PR1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing</td>
<td>CS1, SR2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view</td>
<td>CT1</td>
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*Absence policy: you can miss up to five times for whatever reason. You need not justify your absences. But remember that after 5 absences, you will not receive credit for attendance. Also your Top Hat grade will be negatively affected.
Extra credit assignments may serve to consolidate a borderline grade. The final grade for the course should be representative of a semester’s work. When in doubt, the main grade in two out of the three main categories (journal, quizzes, and exams) will carry the final decision.

Journal: Each student individually will write a critical response after each unit. We will use the Journal tool provided by Blackboard. More information will be provided in due course.

Make up tests, quizzes and homework extensions will only be allowed if you contact me at least 24 hours prior to the deadline.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

1) Book
2) Top Hat

1) Title: *Philosophical Problems: Annotated Anthology* (REPRINTED ED)
   Publisher: Longman
   Edition: 2nd
   ISBN: 9780205639472

2) Top Hat: We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops or through text message.

For an overview and to learn how to register, click here. An email invitation will be sent to you by email. You can also register here: https://app.tophat.com/students/338368/
Our Course Join Code is: 338368

Top Hat will require a paid subscription. A full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

If you need help, email support@tophat.com, click the support button in the app or call 1-888-663-5491.

**Required students’ skills:**

- No prior knowledge of philosophy or philosophical reasoning is required for this course
- Open mindedness and a sense of humor are highly recommended. Students entering philosophy for the first time may be shocked to be exposed to new ways of thinking
GENERAL CLASS RULES: BE ACTIVE

• READ THE MATERIAL: You are expected to come to class prepared. Every reading assignment will allow you to follow the lecture and to participate in class discussion. Remember: reading philosophy requires time and patience. You should have questions regarding each day’s reading assignment. If you have no questions, re-read the assignment.

• PARTICIPATE: Active participation is a vital component of the philosophical learning experience. Listening carefully, expressing doubts and concerns in a coherent manner (either orally or in writing), and responding to other’s philosophical concerns contribute to a deeper understanding of the issues at hand. It is important that you take good class notes so you can assimilate the material presented in class.

• BLACKBOARD and TOP HAT: Check Blackboard for information such as whether there is a quiz or not scheduled for next class, the amount of reading for a particular day, what we did on the day that you missed, your grade after a quiz, test or assignment, or any general announcement for the class. We will also use Blackboard for journal submissions and possible group assignments. Class material and homework assignments will be accessible through Top Hat.

• ETIQUETTE: Be respectful when you address other people (either other students or me). You may disagree with what other people are defending. The challenge is to show the weaknesses in their arguments and to build better ones. Insults do not make good arguments. Attack arguments, not people. Also, when you send me an email, remember my name (Dr. Badiola) and make sure you tell me yours. Please make sure to check your ASU email account (@angelo.edu), in case I have to contact you at any point during the semester.
  o Unless otherwise indicated, classroom use of electronic devices is limited to Top Hat only
  o HAVE THE COURTESY TO INFORM ME in advance if you intend to leave before class ends

• CONTACT ME: I will be more than happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course, any question about a particular issue or text or any inquiry on more bibliography about some topic you find engaging. Also if you feel that your work for the class is not reflected on your grade, come and see me so we can discuss it. Please check my office hours and make sure to make an appointment with me if you cannot make it during those times.

If you have technical issues please contact the IT Helpdesk at 325-942-2911 or 1-800-942-2911. You can also email them at helpdesk@angelo.edu.

THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

4
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student’s class...), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**DISABILITIES**

Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Outline</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: What is Philosophy?</td>
<td>8/27 Course overview</td>
<td>8/29 Reading: Baker 1-13</td>
<td>8/31 Reading: Baker 1-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/3 Labor Day</td>
<td>9/5 In-class practice</td>
<td>9/7 Reading: Plato’s Euthyphro (17-26)</td>
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<td>Unit 2: Knowledge and Skepticism: Classic analyses of the problem of the external world</td>
<td>9/10 Reading: Plato’s Euthyphro (17-26)</td>
<td>9/12 Quiz 1 (over unit 1) The problem: what is the external world 42-46</td>
<td>9/14 Reading: Descartes (46-52)</td>
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<td>9/17 Reading: Descartes (52-58)</td>
<td>9/19 Reading: Descartes (58-63)</td>
<td>9/21 Locke 64-69 (up to book IV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td>9/24</td>
<td>9/26 Quiz 2 (over unit 2) Journal entry for unit 1 &amp; 2 due (Bb) The problem: Dualism Vs. materialism (151-156)</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>9/28 The problem: Dualism Vs. materialism (151-156)</td>
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<td>10/1</td>
<td>The problem: Dualism Vs. materialism (151-156)</td>
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<td>10/3</td>
<td>Reading: A defence of materialism: J. J. C. Smart (162-167)</td>
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<td>10/4</td>
<td>Reading: The knowledge argument: F. Jackson (198-200)</td>
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<td>10/8</td>
<td>Movie discussion: Being John Malkovich</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>Review: Q &amp;A Journal entry (unit 3) due (Bb)</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>10/17 Personal identity: Locke (220-225)</td>
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<td>10/17</td>
<td>10/19 Reid (226-228)</td>
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<td>10/15</td>
<td>10/22 Reading: 217-220; Hard determinism: Blatchford 253-257</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>Reading: Libertarianism (C.A. Campbell: 283-290)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>Test 1</td>
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### Are we genuinely Free?

- **10/29**
  - Hard determinism: Blatchford 253-257
  - Compatibilism (Stace 266-270)
  - Libertarianism (C.A. Campbell: 283-290)

- **10/31**
  - Movie & Discussion: Run, Lola, Run (1998)

- **11/2**
  - Movie & Discussion: *Run, Lola, Run (1998)*

### Unit 5

#### God and Faith: Can we prove that God Exists?

- **11/5**
  - Quiz 3 (over unit 4)
  - Journal entry for unit 4 due (Bb)
  - Reading: 516-518

- **11/7**
  - The cosmological argument:
  - Defense: Clarke (521-523)

- **11/9**
  - Criticism: Hume (524-526)

- **11/12**
  - The argument from design:
  - Defense: Paley (527-534)

- **11/14**
  - Criticism: Gould (535-38)

- **11/16**
  - The ontological argument:
  - Defense: Descartes (556-557)

- **11/19**
  - Criticism: Kant (558-60)

- **11/21**

- **11/23**

### Unit 6

#### The Meaning of Life

- **11/26**
  - Movie Discussion: *Inherit the Wind* (1960)

- **11/28**
  - Movie Discussion: *Inherit the Wind* (1960)

- **11/30**
  - Quiz 4 (over unit 5)
  - Journal entry for unit 5 due (Bb)
  - Nozick 605

- **12/3**
  - Nagel 608-613

- **12/5**
  - Review

- **12/7**
  - Review

- **12/10**

- **12/12**
  - Final exam: 8:00AM-10:00AM

- **12/14**

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7