

Philosophy 110: Intro to Philosophy Section 02
 Summer I 2002
 MTWR 2-3:55pm
 Hunziker Hall 206

Professor Pete Mandik
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Course Web Site:
<http://www.wpunj.edu/cohss/philosophy/faculty/mandik/courses/intro/intro.html>

Introduction: Philosophy is thinking about thinking. Philosophy involves both the careful analysis of the concepts with which we reason and the evaluation of the support for the beliefs we hold. The focus of this introductory course will be the development of the basic skills employed in philosophical thinking. These skills will be developed through the consideration of core problems in the western philosophical tradition, including: the possibility of knowledge, the relation of the mind to the body, whether and how we have free will, the existence of God, and the conceptual foundations of ethics and morality.

Required Readings: Class discussions, quizzes, and exams will be based on readings from *Philosophy: The Basics* by Nigel Warburton as well as readings available on the course web site. The book is available at the WPU Bookstore, large retail bookstores, and at internet bookstores.

Course Expectations, Grading and Assessment: You are required to attend class, to do the readings, to participate in discussions and in-class work, to take the exams and quizzes. There is no take-home homework. 80% of your grade is based on in-class readings and quizzes. It is recommended that you spend at least 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class studying your readings and lecture notes. Take advantage of my office hours if you are having trouble with the material. Readings, quizzes and exams are listed on the outline below. The percentages of your grade for this course are calculated as follows.

Attendance: 20%. Attendance is required. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Your attendance grade is based on the ratio of days that you've been in class while I've taken attendance to the number of days I've taken attendance. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you arrive after I have finished taking attendance, you will be considered absent.

Quizzes: 40%. There will be 4 in-class quizzes each worth 10% of your grade. Quizzes are non-cumulative multiple choice quizzes that cover both lecture and reading material. They are closed-book, closed-note quizzes.

Exams: 40%. There will be 2 in-class exams each worth 20% of your grade. Exams are cumulative, multiple-choice exams that cover both lecture and reading material. They are closed-book, closed-note exams.

If you miss a quiz or an exam without notice, I reserve the right not to let you take it or to let you take it for partial credit. If you wait more than 1 week for a missed exam or if I've already handed it back to the class and you haven't taken it, you cannot take it.

Borderline cases. If your semester grade is a borderline case (for example, a 72% borderline C-) I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade depending on whether you showed a sincere effort to learn philosophy or demonstrated a marked improvement over the semester. Signs of insincerity include absences, lateness, sleeping in class, leaving class early, and demonstrated apathy toward hard work and careful thought in class and homework.

OTHER POLICIES. Valid medical or legal documentation is required for the following: excusing missed class, permission to take exams or quizzes on an alternate date, turning in late work without penalty. I reserve the right to judge the validity of such documentation. If you miss a lecture, whether excused or not, ask a fellow student what you missed. I will not repeat lecture material for students who were absent. Ask me ahead of time if you think there may be a problem. If you have any problems with attending, or any emergencies, or any disabilities or other difficulties you think may become issues with your involvement in the course, please talk to me. Please don't wait until the end. We can usually work something out before there are problems — I'm always happy to try to reschedule something for you if you tell me beforehand. It's up to you to try to maximize your grade — tell me what you want to do!

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic	Quizzes & Exams
1. Intro to Phil (5/28-5/29)	
2. Knowledge (5/30- 6/4)	Quiz 1 (6/3)
3. Reasoning (6/5 –6/10)	Quiz 2 (6/6)
4. Mind (6/11-6/12)	
5. Reality (6/13-6/17)	Exam 1 (6/13)
6. God (6/18-6/19)	
7. Freedom (6/20 – 6/24)	Quiz 3 (6/20)
8. Ethics (6/25 – 6/26)	Quiz 4 (6/26)
9. The State (6/27-7/1)	
10. Meaning of Life (7/2-7/3)	Exam 2 (7/3)

Grade scale

A	100 - 93
A-	92 - 90
B+	89 - 86
B	85 - 83
B-	82 - 80
C+	79 - 76
C	75 - 73
C-	72- 70
D+	69 -66
D	65 - 60