

Introduction to Philosophy
UIC, Spring 2009, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45, BSB 367

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:00-10:00; Thursdays 9:00-10:00 ; and by appointment
Course Reference Number:

Text

Nils CH. Rahut, ed., *Readings on the Ultimate Questions*, 2nd ed.
Some additional readings will be distributed in class or posted on-line.

Tentative Schedule of Readings and Lectures

Note on Reading: I will expect you to have read the assigned readings before class devoted to that unit. Some (if not all) readings will require multiple readings. Unless otherwise specified, all readings are from Rauhut's volume.

Week 1 Introduction and The Problem of Evil

13 January: Introduction; Optional: Kant "What is Enlightenment?"

15 January: Mackie "Evil and Omnipotence"

Week 2 The Problem of Evil and Cosmological Argument

20 January: Swinburne "Why God Allows Evil"

22 January: Aquinas "The Five Ways"; Taylor "The Cosmological Argument"

Week 3 The Design Argument and Pascal and Belief without Evidence?

27 January: Paley "The Argument from Design" (get a copy from me); Coyne
The Faith that Dare Not Speak Its Name (on-line)

29 January: Pascal "The Wager" (get a copy from me)

Week 4 Belief without Evidence? and wrap up

3 February: Clifford "The Ethics of Belief"; James "The Will to Believe"

5 February:

Week 5

10 February:

12 February: Rachels "Must God's Commands Conform to Moral Standards?" and wrap up

Week 6 Philosophy of Mind: Introduction to the Problem

17 February: Singer, excerpts from Animal Liberation; Russell "The Argument from Analogy for Other Minds"

19 February: Descartes, Dualism (reading?)

Week 7

24 February: Churchland "A Critique of Dualism"

26 February: Armstrong

Week 8

3 March: Review for the Mid-Term Exam

5 March: Mid-Term

Week 9 Free Will

10 March: Milgram "Behavioral Study of Obedience" (get a copy from me)

12 March: Optional: van Inwagen?

Week 10

17 March: Chisholm "Human Freedom and the Self"

19 March: Stace "Compatibilism"

Week 11 Spring Break

Week 12

31 March: Frankfurt "Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"

Paper Topics Assigned

2 April: Dostoyevsky "Notes from Underground"

Week 13

7 April: Dostoyevsky continued

Paper Outline Due

9 April: Utilitarianism: Epicurus and Bentham readings

Week 14

14 April: Mill's "Utilitarianism" selections

Paper Due

16 April: Mill continued, Singer "Familne, Affluence, and Morality"

Week 15

21 April: Kant handout

23 April: Kant continued

Week 16

28 April: Nietzsche handout

30 April: Wrap-up