

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 Rahut'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: Clifford and James continued

Week 5 Argument Workshop; Philosophy of Mind: Introduction to the Problem

10 February: Argument Workshop

12 February: Singer, excerpts from Animal Liberation; Russell "The Argument from Analogy for Other Minds" (get both from me)

Week 6

17 February: Descartes, Dualism (reading?)

19 February: Churchland "A Critique of Dualism"

Week 7

24 February: Armstrong "The Nature of Mind"

26 February: Jackson "Epiphenomenal Qualia"

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: Chisholm "Human Freedom and the Self" (also work through van Inwagen's argument on p. 151)

Week 10

17 March: Stace "Compatibilism"

19 March: Frankfurt "Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"

Week 11 Spring Break

Week 12 Ethics

31 March: Dostoevsky "Notes from Underground"

Paper Topics Assigned (you will get an email about this)

2 April: Plato "Euthyphro" (on-line: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>; print it, read it, bring it to class)

Optional: Rachels "Must God's Commands Conform to Moral Standards?"

Week 13

7 April: Epicurus "Letter to Menoecus" (on-line: <http://classics.mit.edu/Epicurus/menoec.html>; print it, read it, bring it to class)

Bentham "The Principle of Utility"; "Push-Pin and Poetry"

PAPER OUTLINE DUE

9 April: Mill "Higher and Lower Pleasures" (in our book)

(But you should also read the full text here: <http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill1.htm> and <http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill2.htm>)

Week 14

14 April: Singer "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (get a copy from me or search on-line: there are multiple sources, I am pretty sure. Originally, the article was published in Philosophy and Public Affairs, volume 1, number 3, spring 1972)

PAPER DUE

16 April:

Week 15

21 April: Kant " Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals"

23 April: Finish Kant, Start Nietzsche *On the Genealogy of Morality* (Preface and First Treatise) - you can get a copy from me or buy the book yourself. We are using the translation by Maudmarie Clark and Alan J. Swensen.

Week 16

28 April: Continue Nietzsche

30 April: Finish Nietzsche and REVIEW REVIEW REVIEW

FINAL EXAM AT 8 (EIGHT!!!!) AM (!!!!) on 8 MAY 2009

GET COFFEE!