Phil 120B: Into. To Philosophy
Moravian College
Spring 2005

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I. Course Description

Tasks and subject matters of philosophy, including major theories of reality, knowledge, religion, morality and social justice. Attention to several classic philosophical texts as primary reading sources.

II. Course Objectives

A. To develop the habit of considering philosophical presuppositions in agreement for or against a solution to any problem.
B. To develop the ability to think critically and logically, and to evaluate ideas.
C. To formulate an argument and support it with reasonable justification.
D. To develop the ability to reflect and philosophize concerning life and its meaning.
E. To broaden one’s philosophical perspectives by studying contrasting views.
F. To acquaint the student with a variety of philosophies and ideas both historical, and recent, that influence contemporary understandings and values.
G. To relate the discipline of philosophy to other disciplines and to see how these disciplines impact philosophical thinking.

III. Course Materials

A. Required Books:

B. Supplementary Materials:
   Assigned reserve readings and movies will be available at Reeves Library.
   You will receive handouts as required.

IV. Course Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the following items:
A. Reflection Papers (60%)
A series of five (5) original reflection papers in which you will address specific assigned questions related to the philosophical area under study. You will address these questions with reference to the assigned readings in no more than 2-3 pages. They will be graded on the quality of philosophical argumentation exhibited and the manner of presentation. These papers will be used as the basis for in-class discussion.

B. Final Exam (20%)
This will be an in-class exam in which you will be able to use your readings and your notes in answering. While it may cover all the materials studied, it will concentrate on the areas not covered in the Reflection Papers. As with those papers, you will be graded on the quality of your argumentation and your manner of presentation.

C. Class Participation (20%)
Discussion is at the heart of the philosophical enterprise, therefore active participation in the class and class discussion is required.

E. Grading Scale:
A  92.5 and up
A-  89.5-92.4
B+  87.5-89.4
B   82.5-87.4
B-  79.5-82.4
etc.
All work will receive a numerical grade. Your final grade will be rounded to the nearest whole integer.

V. Attendance and Honor Philosophy
Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade for late submission.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one’s own; cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom.
Course Syllabus

Week of Jan.10  
Introduction  
Klemke  1-23

Jan. 17  Knowing I  
Klemke  30-58

Jan. 24  Knowing II  
Klemke  59-65, 71-76  
Reserved Reading: Nussbaum, Interlude  
Movie: The Matrix

Jan. 31  Reality I  
Paper #1 due 2/2  
Klemke  79-91

Feb. 7  Reality II  
Klemke  93-97  
Reserved Reading: Russell, Robert, “Quantum Physics in Philosophical and Theological Perspective”, pp. 343-54.

Feb. 14  Free-will & Determinism I  
Paper#2 due 2/16  
Klemke  107-111, 118-134  
Movie: Gattaca

Feb. 21  Free-will & Determinism II  
Klemke  135-157  
Reserved Reading: Hefner, Philip, “Technology and Human Becoming”, Zygon, v. 37, #3, pp.655-666

Feb. 28  Humanity I  
Paper #3 due 3/2  
Klemke  161-169, 197-211

Mar. 14  Humanity II  
Klemke  232-237  

Mar. 21  God, Good & Evil I  
Paper #4 due 3/23  
Klemke  255-273, 310-319

Mar. 28  God, Good & Evil II  
Klemke  346-352, 398-407  
Movie: Crimes and Misdemeanors

Apr. 4.  Moral Philosophy I  
Paper #5 due 4/6  
Klemke  423-445, 517-525
Apr. 11  Moral Philosophy II  
           Klemke   462-479  

Apr. 18  Political and Social Philosophy I  
           Klemke   529-541, 549-555, 594-600  

Apr. 25  Political and Social Philosophy II  
           Movie: *The Fellowship of the Ring*.  

May 5   Final Exam