Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 120A

Professor Christy Mag Uidhir (maguidhir@moravian.edu)

**Required Text:** *Introduction to Philosophy*, Perry & Bratman ed. 3rd Edition Office Z-Dorf 203, Hours: TR 11-Noon, WF by appointment

**Course Goal:** This course will provide the student a solid foundation in the principle areas of traditional Anglo-American (Analytic) philosophy. Although a wide range of topics will be covered, the aim is to familiarise the student with the basic questions in philosophy so that a general idea of the study of philosophy can be gleaned as well as facilitating further study in the fields covered. Most importantly, students will be introduced and become practised in the type of thinking philosophy requires, and this will be of service regardless if the students choose to pursue philosophy further. The areas covered will be Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science.

**Expectations:** All readings must be completed prior to the class period in which they will be discussed. All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. No late work will be accepted without a dean’s approval. I am not an arbiter of excuses, so if you think your absence is warranted, talk to your dean, then your dean can talk to me. There is no extra credit. The grade of A is for exceptional work, B for good work, C for average work, and D and F for failure.

**Grades:** 40% (Quizzes)—the quizzes can be given at any time and will cover only the material assigned for the day the quiz is taken. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. Exams: (60%)—there will be three exams over the course of the semester and each will count for 20% of your final grade. The exams will be short-essay question format.

**Week One: General Introduction and Philosophy as a Discipline**
Aug 29th-Aug 31st Russell 9-11, Smart 12-19

**Week Two: Problem of Evil**
Sept. 5th- Sept. 7th Hume 57-90, Pike 93-102, Mackie 103-110

**Week Three: Epistemology**
Sept. 12th- Sept. 14th Descartes 116-138, Hume 176-189

**Week Four: Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics**

**Week Five: M&M Cont.**
Sept. 26th-Sept. 28th Putnam 354, Turing 355-367, Searle 368-281

**Week Six: M&M Cont.**
Oct. 3rd- Nagel 382-389, Jackson 390-393, Lewis 394-395
Oct. 5th - 1st Exam

**Week Seven: M&M Cont.**
Oct 10th- No Class, Oct. 12th- Perry 396-416

**Week Eight: M&M and Ethics**

**Week Nine: Ethics Cont.**
Oct. 24th-Oct. 26th Smart 505-511, Williams 512-520, Singer 521-528

**Week Ten: Ethics Cont.**
Oct. 31st Nov 2nd Kant 529-545, O’Neill and Nagel 546-563

**Week Eleven: Ethics Cont.**
Nov 7th-Nov 9th My Birthday. Rawls and Nozick 598-618, Cohen and Scheffler 619-649

**Week Twelve: Exam and Ethics Cont.**
Nov 14th- 2nd Exam Nov. 16th Hume 715-738

**Week Thirteen: Ethics Cont.**
Nov. 21st - Gauthier and Mackie 739-752 Nov. 23rd - No Class

**Week Fourteen: Ethics Cont. and Philosophy of Science**
Nov. 28th-Nov. 30th Harman and Sturgeon 765-784, Salmon 230-251, Goodman 791

**Week Fifteen: Philosophy of Science**
Dec. 5th-Dec. 7th- Anscombe 252-262, Anderson 284-304

**Final Exam Dec. 14th**