Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 120B

Professor Christy Mag Uidhir (maguidhir@moravian.edu) Office Z-Dorf 203, Hours: TR 11-Noon, WF by appointment

Required Text: Introduction to Philosophy, Perry & Bratman ed. 3rd Edition

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 30th-Sept 1st- Russell 9-11, Smart 12-19

Week Two: Problem of Evil
Sept. 6th-Sept. 8th- Hume 57-90, Pike 93-102. Mackie 103-110

Week Three: Epistemology
Sept. 13th-Sept. 15th- Descartes 116-138, Hume 176-189

Week Four: Philosophy of Mind and Metaphysics

Week Five: M&M Cont.
Sept. 27th-Sept. 29th- Putnam 354, Turing 355-367, Searle 368-281

Week Six: M&M Cont.
Oct. 4th- Nagel 382-389, Jackson 390-393, Lewis 394-395
Oct. 6th- 1st Exam

Week Seven: M&M Cont.
Oct 11th- Oct. 13th- Perry 396-416, Taylor 437-449, Strawson 460-474

Week Eight: M&M and Ethics
Oct.18th- Oct. 20th- Bentham and Mill 483-502, Smart 505-511, Williams 512-520

Week Nine: Ethics Cont.
Oct. 25th- Oct. 27th- Singer 521-528, Kant 529-545

Week Ten: Ethics Cont.
Nov 1st- Nov 3rd- O’Neill and Nagel 546-563, Rawls and Nozick 598-618

Week Eleven: Ethics Cont.
Nov 8th- Cohen and Scheffler 619-649
Nov 10th- 2nd Exam

Week Twelve: Exam and Ethics Cont.
Nov 15th-Nov 17th- Hume 715-738, Gauthier and Mackie 739-752

Week Thirteen: Thanksgiving
Nov. 22nd- Nov. 24th- No Class

Week Fourteen: Ethics Cont. and Philosophy of Science
Nov. 29th-Dec. 1st- Harman and Sturgeon 765-784, Salmon 230-251, Goodman 791

Week Fifteen: Philosophy of Science
Dec. 6th-Dec. 8th- Anscombe 252-262, Anderson 284-304

Final Exam Dec. 15th