

Introduction to Philosophy

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Dan Campana

Textbook: Introducing Philosophy, Robert Solomon, **10th edition**

Course Description:

This course surveys both historically and topically the development of human thought in those fields traditionally included within Western philosophy. Broadly, these fields include the nature of humankind and the nature of the cosmos.

Course Goals:

Students will be exposed to the development of Western philosophical thought since Plato and will take part in the dialectic which has characterized this process.

Course Outline:

The course will begin with a general introduction to the nature, scope and methodology of Philosophy and then survey:

- A. Metaphysical theories as they progressed from the pre-Socratics to Descartes.
- B. Rationalist, Empiricist, Kantian and post-Kantian theories of knowledge.
- C. Philosophy of Religion including the traditional arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and the nature of faith.
- D. The problems associated with talking about 'self' as an enduring center of consciousness.
- E. Philosophy of Mind including the issue of mind/body dualism, Existentialism, the nature of consciousness, and the related issue of freedom of the will versus materialistic or theistic determinism.

Requirements:

Students will be reading from the assigned textbook and on-line lecture notes. They will be writing several short papers based on the readings, and taking four exams.

Assessment:

All written assignments in the course comprise 60% of the total grade; each test counts as 10% of the total grade.