CTY Santa Cruz Session 2: Introduction to Philosophy

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Instructor's Assistant: TBD

Course Description

In this course, students engage with historical and contemporary answers to a host of philosophical questions: Does God exist? What should I do in my life, most generally? What kind of thing am I? What exists, most generally? Philosophers have made significant progress clarifying the space of possible answers to these questions.

Students will first learn the basic conceptual tools used by contemporary, analytic philosophers in order to tackle these questions. A heavy emphasis is placed on developing the skill of extracting arguments from a written text and evaluating these arguments for good-making features like validity and soundness. Students will gain the ability to concisely express and constructively criticize controversial philosophical views by presenting and commenting in an academic-style conference. The course culminates in a research paper in which students consider arguments for and objections against what they take to be the most plausible argument we have covered. This course covers the content of an introductory course in philosophy at the college level, exposing students to the learning environment of professional academia.

Course Goals

- Come to an understanding of the space of possible answers to perennial philosophical questions concerning the mind.
- Extract arguments from texts and evaluate them for validity and soundness.
- Present philosophical material concisely and persuasively in the context of a professional academic conference.
- Engage in an analytical, respectful manner with competing philosophical argumentation.
- Research and write a collegiate philosophical essay.

Course Reading

- All reading will be made available online and in the form of handouts.

Course Materials
1. Notebook divided into thirds: **Notes**, **Definitions**, **Arguments**
2. Folder or notebook pocket for handouts, quizzes, etc.

Week.Day	Morning (3 hrs)	Afternoon (2 hrs)	Evening (2 hrs)

1.1	Introductions & Ice-Breaker 9:00-9:30 Community Agreement 9:30-10:00 Introduction to Philosophy 10:00-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Toolkit: Arguments, Validity & Soundness 10:45-12:00	Worksheet #1 Group Work 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Toolkit: Necessary and Sufficient Conditions 2:15-3:00	<u>Activities</u> 1. Pre-Test 2. Introduction to Argument Cards <u>Reading</u> 1. Edward Craig, *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (excerpt) 2. Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"
1.2	Quiz 9:00-9:20 Problem of Evil 9:20-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Problem of Evil cont'd 10:45-12:00	Logical concepts 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Problem set 2:15-3:00	<u>Readings</u> - van Inwagen, "The Problem of Evil"
1.3	Quiz 9:00-9:20 Free Will and Other Defenses against the Problem of Evil 9:20-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Free Will and Other Defenses against the Problem of Evil cont'd 10:45-12:00	Logical concepts 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Problem set 2:15-3:00	<u>Readings</u> - Aquinas' 2nd Way - Descartes, *Meditations* (excerpt)

1.4	Quiz 9:00-9:20 A Priori Arguments for God's Existence 9:20-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 A Priori Arguments for God's Existence 10:45-12:00	Logical concepts 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Problem set 2:15-3:00	Readings - Aquinas' 5th Way - Paley, *Natural Theology* (excerpt)
1.5	Quiz 9:00-9:20 A Posteriori Arguments for God's Existence 9:20-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 A Posteriori Arguments for God's Existence cont'd 10:45-12:00	Argument Presentations #1 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Argument Presentations #1 cont'd 2:15-3:00	No session
2.1	Recap Weekend 9:00-9:10 Group Reading & Discussion: Thomson, "Killing, letting die, and the trolley problem" 9:10-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Group Reading cont'd 10:45-12:00	Utilitarianism 1:00-1:45 Break 1:45-2:00 Utilitarianism cont'd, Skits 2:00-3:00	Readings - Kant, *Groundwork* (selections)
2.2	Quiz 9:00-9:20 Deontology 9:20-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Deontology cont'd 10:45-12:00	Logical concepts 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Problem set 2:15-3:00	Readings - Benedict, "Anthropology and the Abnormal" (excerpt) - MacIntyre, "Moral Pluralism without Moral Relativism"

2.3	Quiz
	        9:00-9:20
	
	Moral Relativism and Realism
	        9:20-10:30
	
	Break
	        10:30-10:45
	
	Moral Relativism and Realism cont'd
	        10:45-12:00
		Logical concepts
		        1:00-2:00
		
		Break
		        2:00-2:15
		
		Problem set
		        2:15-3:00
			<u>Readings</u>
			
			- Nagel, "Moral Luck"

2.4	Quiz
	        9:00-9:20
	
	Moral Luck
	        9:20-10:30
	
	Break
	        10:30-10:45
	
	Moral Luck cont'd
	        10:45-12:00
		Prepare for Argument Presentation #2
		        1:00-2:00
		
		Break
		        2:00-2:15
		
		Preparation cont'd
		        2:15-3:00
			<u>Readings</u>
			
			- van Inwagen, "The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will"

2.5	Quiz
	        9:00-9:10
	
	Responsibility, Free Will, and Determinism
	        9:10-10:30
	
	Break
	        10:30-10:45
	
	Responsibility, Free Will, and Determinism cont'd
	        10:45-12:00
		Argument Presentations #2
		        1:00-2:00
		
		Break
		        2:00-2:15
		
		Argument Presentations #2 cont'd
		        2:15-3:00
			No session

3.1	Recap Weekend
	        9:00-9:10
	
	Group Reading Descartes, *Meditations* (excerpt) & Correspondence between Elisabeth and Descartes
	        9:10-10:30
	
	Break
	        10:30-10:45
	
	Group Reading cont'd
	        10:45-12:00
		Dualism
		        1:00-2:00
		
		Break
		        2:00-2:15
		
		Dualism cont'd
		        2:15-3:00
			<u>Activity</u>
			
			1. Begin reading and taking notes for final research paper.
			
			<u>Reading</u>
			
			- van Inwagen "Dualism and Personal Identity" (excerpt)

3.2	Group Reading Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know" 9:05-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Finish reading and note-taking for research paper. Begin outlining research paper. 10:45-12:00	Materialism 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Complete outline for research paper. 2:15-3:00	<u>Activity</u> 1. Write rough draft of research paper.
3.3	Group Reading: Anderson, "Introduction to Functionalism", Cole, "The Chinese Room Argument" (excerpt) 9:05-10:30 Break 10:30-10:45 Presentation of instructional staff research project(s) 10:45-12:00	Peer review worksheet for research paper 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Paper revisions and planning final version of research paper 2:15-3:00	<u>Activity</u> 1. Write and submit final draft of research paper.
3.4	Instructional Staff-led Review for Post-test 1:00-2:00 Break 2:00-2:15 Individual Studying Session for Post-test 2:15-3:00	Post-test 1:00-3:00	<u>Activities</u> Class evaluations
3.5	Celebration of Class Accomplishments	No session	No session