Syllabus for Philosophy 1, 53Z

Fall 2024

Richard Hammerud, Ph.D.

Philosophy 1, 53Z

Office hours will differ from week to week

but I will notify you in Announcements when

they will be held.

Cell phone 650 274-3209

PHILOSOPHY 1 is an introduction to philosophy. The focus will be on epistemology and metaphysics.

Some of the topics covered will be: free will; the mind-body problem; the existence of God; the nature

and limitation of knowledge, and self-identity.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Freud, The Future of an Illusion

John Searle, Mind: A Brief Introduction

Jim Holt, Why Does the World Exist

Assignments:

There will be regular homework assignments. You will write two essays on assigned topics. There will be a midterm and a final exam.

This class is on Canvas. You are required to listen to all the things I post in the Modules or assign from You Tube.

Grading Scale:

A+ 97-100 A 93-96 A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 B- 80-82 C+ 75-79 C 70-74

D 60-69 F below 80

The Final exam is due Dec. 16

Week 1 4/8-4/14 Read Plato’s Phaedo and the first two pages of Aristotle’s Metaphysics; Read pp. 1-12 of Jim Holt, Why Does the World Exist?; Listen to assigned videos on You Tube channel and in Module 1

Week 2 4/15-4/21 Read first 50 paragraphs of Leibniz’s Mondology; the fir st 15 paragrphs of Spinoza’s Ethics; and the first two Meditations of Descartes; read pp. 13-20 of Holt

Week 3 4/22-4/28 Read the Five Ways of Aquinas, the ontological argument of Anselm; Paley’s watch argument and Hume’s critique of Paley; Read pp. 23-30 in Holt

Week 4 4/29-5/5 Read Freud’s The Future of an Illusion and Chesterton’s Ethics of Elfland

Read pp. 31-35 in Holt

Week 5 5/6-5/12 Read Locke’s Essay Concerning Human Understanding, book 1 chapter 2;

Read Hume’s Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Bolk 1 section 2

Read Holt, pl. 35-40; read chapter 1 of Searle, Mind

Week 6 5/13-5/19

Read chapter 2 of Searle; pp. 40-45 of Holt; chap. 11 of Russell

Week 7 5/20-5/26

Read chapter 3 of Sear;e pp. 46 -50 of Holt

Midterm due and first essay due by Friday

Week 8 5/27-6/2

Read chapter 4 of Searle

Read pp. 51-55 of Holt

Week 9 6/3-6/9

Read chapter 6 of Searle; read 55-60 of Holt

Week 10 6/10-6/16

Read chapter 8 of Searle; read 61-65 of Holt

Week 11 6/17-6/23

Read chapter 11 of Searle

Week 12

Review the material of the past few weeks

Final essay due 6/28

Final exam due 6/28