

**PHIL 104**  
**Introduction to Philosophy, Writing Intensive**  
Fall 2022

**Professor Michael Glanzberg**

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Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

**Lectures**

Monday, Wednesday, 3:50-5:10, AB 2225

**Sections**

Various: make sure you know when and where yours meets!

**Overview**

This course is an introduction to philosophy in the western tradition. It has two central goals. The first is to give you an understanding of what philosophical problems are, and how they might be solved. This will be done through consideration of some perennial philosophical problems, drawing on readings from important figures in the history of philosophy, as well as contemporary authors. The second goal is to develop your analytic and argumentative skills. Topics to be discussed include the existence of God, the nature of knowledge, the relation of mind to body, free will, and ethics and the nature of right and wrong.

**Learning Goals**

- Acquaint students with some of the important positions and arguments on a number of central questions in Western philosophy. Critically examine philosophical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production. [AHO]
- Effectively communicate philosophical ideas and arguments; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. [WCd]
- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, &/or supervisors through successive drafts & revision. [WCr]
- Improve students' skills at a) identifying and articulating arguments in texts, b) analyzing and criticizing those arguments, and c) explaining and defending their own philosophical views.

**Course Format**

Philosophy 104 involves both lecture and discussion section. Slides for lectures will be available on the Canvas site. In addition, each student is assigned to a discussion section led by a teaching assistant. There are 10 discussion sections. Discussion sections are very important: it is hard to learn philosophy without trying ideas out, and sections give you an opportunity to do that. So, make sure you know which section you are signed up for, and that you attend the correct section. Check your class schedule if you are unsure. And obviously, you really have to go to sections!

**Teaching Assistants**

Mia Accomando	<a href="mailto:mia.accomando@rutgers.edu">mia.accomando@rutgers.edu</a>
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Rose Fonth	<a href="mailto:rose.fonth@rutgers.edu">rose.fonth@rutgers.edu</a>

### **Textbook**

We will use an anthology of readings: *The Elements of Philosophy: Readings from Past and Present*, edited by Tamar Szabó Gendler, Susanna Siegel, and Steven M. Cahn, Oxford University Press, 2008.

### **Readings**

All readings will be drawn from this anthology. The anthology is available both new and used. Many of the readings are also available from other sources, and some are in the public domain. When possible, links to other ways to get specific readings will be posted on the Canvas site. You are welcome to access the readings any way you like, but you will need to find them somewhere.

The readings are not easy: they are not introductions to philosophy but rather examples of it. Though the number of pages in each reading is small, you should expect them to require careful and often slow reading.

### **Canvas**

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>

Login with your NetId.

### **Evaluation**

- Discussion section participation and section-based assignments: 10%

Your TA will regularly assign small things like online discussion forums, question submissions, brief homework assignments, and so forth.

- Writing assignments: 70%

You will complete four writing assignments for this course. The first is very short, purely expository, and only worth 5% of your grade. The second assignment is an exercise in constructing an argument, worth 15% of your grade. The final two assignments will be 5-7 page argumentative papers. These will be due in three parts: a “prewrite”, a first draft, and a final draft. (The class meets Core Curriculum Requirement WCr.) The prewrite will not be graded, but simply marked as complete/incomplete; if you do not do it, your final draft will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade. The first drafts will be graded and worth 5% for third assignment and 10% for the fourth assignment; the final drafts will be graded and worth 15% for the third assignment and 20% for the fourth assignment. More details on the writing assignments to come, of course.

- ‘Semi-Take-Home’ Final exam: 20%

December 19, 4:00-7:00pm. This is set by the university and cannot be changed. Mark your calendars now!

This exam will be run like a regular in-class exam. The question will be circulated at the beginning of the exam period, and you will submit your answers by the end of the exam period. But, you can do this all from home. Questions will be posted on Canvas at the beginning of the exam period, and you will submit your answers via Turnitin at the end of the exam period. Hence, I call this ‘semi-take-home’.

### **Grading Policies**

1. In some cases, extensions might be granted on papers, but you must talk to your TA at least 24 hours in advance to discuss an extension. If you do not make arrangements beforehand, late papers will be downgraded by 1/3 letter grade per day.

2. To pass this class, you must complete all four writing assignments and the final exam.

3. To repeat: the date and time of the final exam are set by the university and cannot be changed. You must take the final to pass the class.

**Notes on Academic Integrity**

1. Every student is required to adhere to Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://nbprovost.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-students>

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with this policy, and what constitutes a violation of it. All work submitted must be your own, and all sources must be properly cited. Changing a few words from an online source does not make the material your own.

2. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com (via Canvas) for the detection of plagiarism. Further, all papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the usage policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

3. Students are not permitted to buy or sell any course materials, online or otherwise. This includes handouts, paper topics, homework questions, slides, etc. Such behavior constitutes academic misconduct.

**Disability Services**

(848) 202-3011. Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

## **Tentative Schedule**

**Note:** This will certainly change somewhat. There is slack at the end to catch up, as we will very very likely fall behind schedule.

Week 1 (September 7)	NO CLASS! You get an extra day to relax before we get to work.
<b>Introduction</b>	
Week 2 (September 12)	Organization and introduction Blackburn, "What is Philosophy"
<b>The Existence of God</b>	
Week 2 (September 12, 14)	Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" Guanilo, "On Behalf of the Fool" Moore, "Is Existence a Predicate?" Rowe, "Why the Ontological Argument Fails"
<b>Freedom of Will</b>	
Week 3 (September 19, 21)	Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity"
<b>September 19, Assignment 1 circulated (short)</b>	
<b>September 21, Assignment 1 due</b>	
Week 4 (September 26, 28)	Chisolm, "Human Freedom and the Self" Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment"
<b>Knowledge and the World</b>	
Week 5 (October 3, 5)	Chalmers, "The Matrix as Metaphysics" Stoljar, "Physicalism"
<b>October 3, Assignment 2 circulated (short, but longer than assignment 1)</b>	
<b>October 5, Assignment 2 due</b>	
<b>More on the Mind</b>	
Week 6 (October 10, 12)	Chakrabarti, "Understanding Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika Dualism" Jackson, "The Knowledge Argument"
<b>October 10, Assignment 3 topics circulated</b>	
Week 7 (October 17, 19)	Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?" Dennet, "Quining Qualia"
<b>October 17, Assignment 3 prewrite due</b>	
Week 8 (October 24, 26)	Turing, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" Searle, "Can Computers Think?"
<b>October 24, Assignment 3 draft due</b>	
<b>Ethics</b>	
Week 9 (October 31, November 2)	Mill, "Utilitarianism" section labeled Chapter 2 only
<b>October 31, drafts returned</b>	
Week 10 (November 7, 9)	Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism" Kant, "Selections from the Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals"
<b>November 7, Assignment 3 final version due</b>	

Week 11 (November 14, 16)      Kant continued  
O'Neill, "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics"

**November 14, Assignment 4 topics circulated**

Week 12 (November 21)      Thomson, "The Trolley Problem"  
Note we do not meet Wednesday November 23, as that day Friday classes are held. And then Thanksgiving break starts.

**November 21, Assignment 4 prewrite due**

Week 13 (November 28, 30)      Thomson continued  
Wolf, "Moral Saints"

**November 28, Assignment 4 draft due**

Week 14 (December 5, 7)      Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism"  
Catch-up

**December 5, drafts returned**

Week 15 (December 12, 14)      Catch-up and review

**December 12, Assignment 4 final version due**

#### **Final Exam**

**December 19, 4:00-7:00pm**

**This is set by the university and cannot be changed. Mark your calendars now!**

#### **Key Dates**

September 21, Assignment 1 due  
October 5, Assignment 2 due  
October 17, Assignment 3 prewrite due  
October 24, Assignment 3 draft due  
November 7, Assignment 3 final version due  
November 21, Assignment 4 prewrite due  
November 28, Assignment 4 draft due  
December 12, Assignment 4 final version due  
December 19, 4:00-7:00pm, final exam