

Course Syllabus

PHIL INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY 1000

Fall 2018, M/W/F 10:30-11:20

Location: Engineering 201

Instructor

Dr. Rachel Robison

rachel.robison@usu.edu

Office Hours: M/W/F 1:30-2:30 Eccles Conference Center 108 F

Course Description

In this course, we will raise some of the most enduring human questions and consider answers offered by past and present thinkers. Questions will include: How should we determine whether to accept the conclusion of an argument? How do we determine which action, of those available to us, is the right action to perform? What makes a person the same person from one moment to the next? What makes knowledge different from belief? Do we ever really have knowledge? Does God exist? Do we have free will? If so, what distinguishes a free action from an action that is not free? Is there meaning in life? If so, what makes life meaningful?

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
2. Acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.
3. Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity.

Course Resources

Textbook: *Reason and Responsibility* 16th edition. Editors: Joel Feinburg and Russ Schaffer-Landau.

ISBN-13: 978-1305502444

Additional Readings will be posted on CANVAS as needed.

Course Requirements

1. 25% of course grade: Midterm Exam.
2. 25% of course grade: Final Exam.
3. 25% of course grade: Five CANVAS quizzes.
4. 25% of course grade: A five page term paper.

Due Dates

Quiz One due **September 14th,**

Quiz Two due **October 5th.**

Quiz Three due **October 24th.**

Quiz Four due **November 9th.**

Quiz Five due **November 30th.**

Five page term paper due **November 16th.**

Exam One: **October 12th.**

Exam Two: **December 14th, 9:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.**

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week One

Unit One: Introduction to Philosophy and Logic

Monday, August 27th : Review of Syllabus and Introduction to Philosophy.

Wednesday, August 29th: Introduction to Argument Evaluation.

Friday, August 31st: Introduction to Argument Evaluation.

Week Two

Unit Two: Ethics

Monday, September 3rd: Labor Day--**No Classes.**

Wednesday, September 5th: Logic

Friday, September 7th: Logic

Week Three

Monday, September 10th: Logic

Wednesday, September 12th: Finish logic section. Start Ethics Section. Utilitarianism. *Reading—John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism.*

Friday, September 14th: Utilitarianism

QUIZ ONE DUE.**Week Four**

Monday, September 17th: Deontology. *Reading—Immanuel Kant: The Good Will and The Categorical Imperative.*

Wednesday, September 19th: Virtue Theory *Reading—Aristotle: Virtue and the Good Life.*

Friday, September 21st: Care Ethics: *Reading—Hilde Lindeman: What is Feminist Ethics?*

Week Five

Monday, September 24th: Applied Ethics.

Unit Three: Personal Identity and Persistence Through Time

Wednesday, September 26th: John Locke *The Prince and the Cobbler*

Friday, September 28th: Thomas Reid: *Of Mr. Locke's Account of Our Personal Identity*

Week Six

Monday, October 1st : *Reading—John Perry: A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality.*

Wednesday, October 3rd: *Reading—John Perry: A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality.*

Friday, October 5th: *Reading—John Perry: A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality.*

QUIZ TWO DUE.**Week Seven**

Monday, October 8th: Catch-Up Day

Wednesday, October 10th: Review

Friday, October 12th: Exam.

Week Eight**Unit Four: Free Will and Determinism**

Monday, October 15th: Introduction to Philosophical Thought on the Topic of Free Will.

Wednesday, October 17th: Libertarianism. Robert Kane *Free Will: Ancient Dispute, New Themes*.

Friday, October 19th: Fall Break. **NO CLASS.**

Week Nine:

Monday, October 22nd: Hard Determinism. James Rachels *The Case Against Free Will*.

Wednesday, October 24th: Hard Determinism. Derk Pereboom *Why We Have No Free Will and Can Live Without It*.

Friday, October 26th: Compatibilism. *Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility*.

QUIZ THREE DUE.**Week Ten:****Unit Five: The Nature and Extent of Human Knowledge**

Monday, October 29th: Can we know anything at all? *Reading—Rene Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy. Meditation One.*

Wednesday, October 31st: Can we know anything at all? *Reading—Rene Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy. Meditation Two.*

Friday, November 2nd: Can we know anything at all?

Week Eleven**Unit Six: The Ethics Of Belief**

Monday, November 5th: Lecture on Frankfurt's *On Truth*. No reading.

Wednesday, November 7th. Ethics and Belief. *Readings: W.K. Clifford—The Ethics of Belief.*

Friday, November 9th: Ethics and Belief. *William James—The Will to Believe.*

QUIZ FOUR DUE**Week Twelve****Unit Seven: Arguments for and Against the Existence of God**

Monday, November 12th: The Ontological Argument and the Cosmological Argument.

Wednesday, November 14th: The Teleological Argument. *Reading—William Paley: The Argument from Design.*

Friday, November 16th: The Problem of Evil and The Free Will Theodicy.

TERM PAPER DUE.**Week Thirteen:**

Monday, November 19th: The Problem of Evil and The Free Will Theodicy

Wednesday, November 21st: Thanksgiving Break. **NO CLASS.**

Friday, November 23rd: Thanksgiving Break. **NO CLASS.**

Week Fourteen**Unit Eight: Meaning in Life**

Monday, November 26th: Meaning in Life. Meaning in Life. *Reading—Albert Camus: The Myth of Sisyphus (CANVAS). Thomas Nagel: The Absurd.*

Wednesday, November 28th: Richard Taylor *The Meaning in Life.*

Friday, November 30th: Susan Wolf *Happiness and Meaning: Two Aspects of the Good Life.*

QUIZ FIVE DUE.**Week Fifteen**

Monday, December 3rd: Catch Up Day

Wednesday, December 5th: Catch Up Day

Friday, December 7th: Exam Review

Finals Week

Friday, December 14th 9:30-11:20 *Final Exam.*

Grade Scheme

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%

Grade	Range
F	< 59.0 % to 0.0%

Nonattendance Policy

Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. ***(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)*** This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see [2018-2019 General Catalog](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955) [_ \(http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955\)](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955)).

Assumption of Risk

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: <http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/> [_ \(http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/\)](http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/)

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. [_ \(http://libguides.usu.edu/rc\)](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc)

Classroom Civility.

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read [Student Code](#)

[Article V Section V-3 \(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5\)](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5) for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility.

[Faculty Code Policy #403 \(http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf\)](http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity - "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
 - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
 - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
 - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
 - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;

- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: [ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity \(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6\)](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

Sexual Harassment/Title IX

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and [USU Policy 339 \(http://www.usu.edu/policies/339\)](http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's [Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity \(AA/EO\) Office \(http://aaeo.usu.edu\)](http://aaeo.usu.edu) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment ([USU Policy 305 \(http://www.usu.edu/policies/305\)](http://www.usu.edu/policies/305)), and has designated the AA/EO Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\) \(http://www.usu.edu/drc\)](http://www.usu.edu/drc) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, [drc@usu.edu \(mailto:drc@usu.edu\)](mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an

instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.usu.edu> (<https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (<mailto:studentservices@usu.edu>), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: <https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services> (<https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services>), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (<mailto:access@usu.edu>); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture/>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity> (<https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/>), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State

University: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode> (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7) (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7>).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- [Student Conduct](http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct) (<http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct>)
- [Student Code](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/) (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)
- [Academic Integrity](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6) (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6>)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm) (<http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm>)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546) (<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546>)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) (<http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf>)

Emergency Procedures









In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

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Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Sep 14, 2018	 Quiz One: Logic (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516407)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 5, 2018	 Quiz Two: Personal Identity (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516408)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 12, 2018	 Exam One (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516344)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 26, 2018	 Quiz Three: Free Will (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516441)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 9, 2018	 Quiz Four: Epistemology (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516440)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 16, 2018	 Term Paper (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516442)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 30, 2018	 Quiz Five: Arguments for and Against the Existence of God (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516439)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 14, 2018	 Exam Two (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/496086/assignments/2516361)	due by 11:59pm

