

Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2018
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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS
UPDATED 10.19.18

Class 1. September 7.

Introduction: what is philosophy?

Solomon, 10-13: "What is philosophy?"

Gerald Dworkin, "Are These 10 Lies Justified?" (handout)

Class 2. September 14.

Socrates and Plato.

Plato, *Apology* (in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*).

Class 3. September 21.

Socrates and Plato. Logic.

Part I. Plato, *Crito* (in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*).

Part II. Logic. Solomon, 23-28. Deductive arguments.

Class 4. September 28.

Epistemology.

Solomon, 200-07. Descartes' *Meditations*.

Solomon, 191-94. Introduction and Bertrand Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*.

FIRST PAPER (ON SOCRATES AND CRITO) DUE.

Class 5. October 5.

Epistemology.

Solomon, 35-39. Fallacies.

Linda Zagzebski, "Epistemic Value and What We Care About" (pp. 1-13).

"Epistemology and testimony" (handout)

Class 6. October 12.

Religion and God.

Solomon, 150-89. The three traditional arguments for the existence of God. Euthyphro.

Pascal's wager. The problem of evil. "If God is dead then everything is permitted."

Class 7. October 19.

Freedom and determinism.

Solomon: 444-455
SECOND PAPER (ON THE PROBLEM OF EVIL) DUE.

Class 8. October 26.

Freedom and determinism, applied: crime and punishment.

Solomon: 451-55; 456-61; 464-68; 485-86

"A Brief History of the Insanity Defense," NPR (handout)

David Eagleman, "The Brain on Trial" (handout)

Gene Heyman, "Do Addicts Have Free Will? An Empirical Approach to a Vexing Question" (handout)

Class 9. November 2.

Egoism and altruism.

Solomon, 509-22.

Lichtenberg, "Is Pure Altruism Possible?" (handout)

Class 10. November 9. Guest teacher: Rachel Gartner (Rabbi, Director of Jewish Life, Georgetown University).

Seeking peace: rebuke and reconciliation

Readings TBD.

Class 11. November 16. Guest teacher: Rachel Singpurwalla (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland). **Happiness.**

Readings TBD.

November 23, no class: Thanksgiving holiday.

Class 12. November 30. Guest teacher: Joshua Miller (Assistant Teaching Professor of Philosophy; Director of Education, Prisons and Justice Initiative, Georgetown University).

Motivated reasoning and fake news.

Regina Rini, "How to Fix Fake News," *New York Times*, 10.15.18

Jonathan Haidt, "The Emotional Dog and Its Rational Tail," *Psychological Review* 108 (2001), 814-34

Class 13. December 7.

Kant's ethics.

Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* (handout)

Class 14. December 14.

Larissa MacFarquhar, "The Kindest Cut," *New Yorker*, 7.27.09

Handel's *Messiah*.