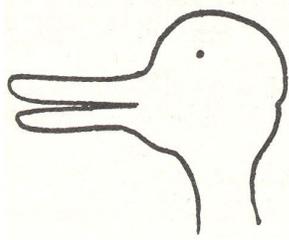


PHILOSOPHY 1101:
PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:45, Hart 308



Andrew Parisi

✉ andrew.parisi@uconn.edu
✉' andrew.p.parisi@gmail.com
🌐 <http://andrewparisi.weebly.com/>
Office Hours: After Class or by Appointment

The syllabus, and in particular, the schedule are liable to change. The most updated version of the syllabus is available on [HuskyCT](#) and [my website](#). Be sure to check regularly for schedule updates of readings, quizzes, exams, and other changes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to philosophy from a contemporary standpoint. The aim of the course is not to give a history of philosophical thought but to direct students to pressing issues in current philosophical thought. The topics covered are proofs for and against the existence of God, skepticism and idealism, artificial intelligence, and freedom of the will. For more details on the precise content of the course see the [schedule](#).

Prerequisite(s): None.

Credit Units: 3

Text: All the readings for this class are provided on [HuskyCT](#). If there are any missing readings or bad links, let the instructor ([Andrew Parisi](#)) know as soon as possible so they can fix the issue. If a textbook containing much of the material for the course is desired the following can be helpful:

Title: *Reason and Responsibility*

Editors: Joel Feinberg & Russ Shafer-Landau

ISBN-13: 978-1305502444

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. pull basic arguments from a text on any subject;
2. evaluate the strength of arguments;
3. understand and have basic knowledge of contemporary philosophical issues;
4. and critically evaluate the positions that have been taken on those issues.

Grade Distribution:

Participation	15%
Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

COURSE POLICIES

• **General**

- Electronic Policy: You may use electronics at your discretion. Though be aware that inappropriate use of electronics will have a negative impact on your participation grade.
- Participation is crucial for progress and success in this class. If you are uncomfortable participating in class, you can make up your participation grade by sending me comments on the reading for that day before class.
- It is impossible to participate if you are not in class, so the above mentioned clause for participation can only be invoked with regular attendance.
- In general, it is a bad idea to supplement or replace readings with material found online. There are contentious interpretations of most of the material that will be taught. While it would be ideal to teach all such interpretations of the material, time does not allow this. Coming across alternate interpretations of material usually begets confusion as opposed to clarity.
- Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes.
- **No makeup quizzes or exams will be given.**

• **Grades**

- Grades in the **C+** to **B-** range represent performance that **meets expectations**; Grades in the **B+** to **A-** range represent performance that is **significantly better** than the expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**.
- You may contact me for information about your current grade or your expected grade in the course.

- **Quizzes and Exams**

- There are five quizzes throughout the semester. These are all taken in class, and together make up 25% of the final grade for the course.
- There is a midterm exam and a final exam for the class. The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the class. The final will cover material mostly from the second half of the class, though some material from the first half may appear on the final.
- **There are no make-up exams scheduled for this class.**

- **Attendance and Absences**

- University policy prohibits attendance counting towards a grade. I will, therefore, not be taking attendance.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials. The readings for this class are difficult, and the material is only made more difficult by failure to attend the class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY SUMMARY

Introduction

In addition to skills and knowledge, the University of Connecticut aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard. It is your job to be sure that the instructor has no reason to suspect academic dishonesty. Any perceived dishonesty will be dealt with according to the guidelines of the [UConn's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Instructor's Intended Purpose

The student's work must match the instructor's intended purpose for an assignment. While the instructor will establish the intent of an assignment, each student must clarify outstanding questions of that intent for a given assignment. If there are any questions or unclarity about what will be on quizzes or exams, this must be brought to the attention of the instructor.

Declaration

Online submission of, or placing one's name on an exam, assignment, or any course document is a statement of academic honor that the student has not received or given inappropriate assistance in completing it and that the student has complied with the Academic Honesty Policy in that work.

Consequences

An instructor may impose a sanction on the student that varies depending upon the instructor's evaluation of the nature and gravity of the offense. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to, the following: (1) Require the student to redo the assignment; (2) Require the student to complete another assignment; (3) Assign a grade of zero to the assignment; (4) Assign a final grade of "F" for the course. A student may appeal these decisions according to [UConn's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

SCHEDULE

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. Students must keep up with the reading assignments. The most recent version of the syllabus will be on [HuskyCT](#) and [my website](#). Readings are to be read by the day on which they are listed.

Date	Topic	Reading
INTRODUCTION		
Jan. 17	Introduction to Philosophy	
Jan. 19	Introduction to Philosophy	Introduction to Philosophy
Jan. 24	Logic: Arguments, Statements, Form	Logic
Jan. 26	Logic: Counter-examples; Quiz 1: Introduction to Philosophy & Logic	Study
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION		
Jan. 31	SNOW DAY	
Feb. 2	The Ontological Argument	Anselm - Proslogion Ch. II
Feb. 7	Reply to The Ontological Argument	Gaunilo - On Behalf of The Fool
Feb. 8	SNOW DAY	
Feb. 14	The Necessary Being	Ibn Sina - The Salvation, Metaphysics, II.12-13
Feb. 16	The Problem of Evil; Quiz 2: Arguments for the Existence of God	Mackie - Evil and Omnipotence
SKEPTICISM AND IDEALISM		
Feb. 21	Skepticism	Descartes - Meditations I
Feb. 23	Skepticism	Descartes - Meditations II
Feb. 28	Idealism; Quiz 3: Skepticism	Hume Bk. I, Pt III, Sec. VI
March 2	Idealism	Berkeley - Principles of Human Knowledge
March 7	Midterm Review	Study & Bring Questions
March 9	Midterm Exam	
March 14	Spring Break	
March 16		
MINDS AND MACHINES		
March 21	The Turing Test	Turing - Computing Machinery and Intelligence
March 23	The Chinese Room	Searle - Minds, Brains, and Programs
March 28	Class Canceled	
March 30	What is Intelligence	Lycan

FREE WILL		
April 4	Determinism; Quiz 4: AI	Pink - Determinism
April 6	Compatibilism	Frankfurt - Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person
April 11	Compatibilism	Wolf - Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility
April 13	Incompatibilism; Quiz 5: Determinism & Compatibilism	van Inwagen - On the Powers of Rational Agents
PHILOSOPHY OF TIME		
April 18	Causing the Past	Dummett - Bringing About the Past
April 20	Presentism and Eternalism	Lockwood Chapter 1
April 25	Paradoxes of Time Travel	Lewis - Paradoxes of Time Travel
April 27	Time is Unreal; Quiz 6: Time	McTaggart - The Unreality of Time