**PHI 2010 HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY, 3 credits**

**Professor: Ashley Kennedy  
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**Credits: 3**

**Course Description:**

This course will survey a number of classical topics in philosophy. We will discuss the nature of rationality, whether God exists, what it is to behave morally, whether we have free will, the difference between mind and matter, and the meaning of life. Further, this course has three main goals:

1. To provide an introduction to several important, long-standing philosophical debates.
2. To provide an introduction to philosophical reasoning.
3. To provide an introduction to the skill of analytical writing.

**Note of Honors Distinction:**

This is an Honors course and as such differs substantially from non-Honors courses. In this course you will not only learn philosophical principles, but also be expected to produce substantive work that reflects interdisciplinarity among academic fields. Further, you will be required to read primary research and to combine creative and critical thinking with real world engagement.  Please be advised that the writing component of the course is demanding. It is not easy to write philosophy, but in this class you will begin to learn to do so. This, in turn, will help to prepare you for further analytical writing in upper-division courses, and for work on the **Honors Thesis.**

**Course Evaluation:**

3 papers, worth 25% each

participation in class activities and discussion, 25%

**How You’ll Get Your Grades:**

Papers:

I will grade your papers based on:

1. Vocabulary
2. Sentence mechanics
3. Topic maintenance
4. Paragraph formulation
5. Cogency, argument and the degree to which you engage with these texts

Participation:

1. I expect you to read the assigned text, read it again, and come to class prepared to discuss it.
2. I will grade you based on the quality of your participation in the class discussion. The responsibility lies with you to show me and your peers that you have read and are dealing intelligently with these assigned readings. If you don’t feel you understand the text, that’s okay. But I will mark down students who do not have their assigned readings with them in class, marked with their reading notes, and who are unprepared to discuss them in class.

**Required Readings:**

1. Engaging Philosophy by Mitchell Green. Hackett Publishers.
2. Introduction to Philosophy: classic and contemporary readings 6th edition. Edited by Perry, Bratman, Fischer. Oxford University Press.

**Students enrolled in this course** agree to abide by the[**Honors College Honor Code**](http://www.fau.edu/honors/academics_honor_code.php)  and the [**FAU Code of Academic Integrity**](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf)**:** please review these documents.

**Attendance policy**: You are allowed two absences.

**Computer policy**: The use of laptops in class is reserved for those students with sufficient documentation from the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center.

**Cellphone policy**: **NO CELLPHONES.**

**Late Work Policy:** I do not accept late assignments.

**Students with Disabilities**: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities in SR 110 (561-799-8010) and follow all OSD procedures.

**SCHEDULE:**

1. Course introduction and overview

TRUTH AND PRUDENCE

1. Meaning of life
2. Value of philosophy Anthology through p. 21
3. Theoretical rationality EP through p. 22
4. Practical reasoning EP through p. 29

GOD

6. Deductive proof EP chapter 3

7. Pragmatic argument “The Wager”

8. Design “Natural Theology”

9. Atheism “Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God”

ETHICS

10. How to write philosophy

11. Utilitarianism EP chapter 4

12. Critics of Utilitarianism “Extreme and restricted Utilitarianism” **Paper 1 due**

13. Relativism “The subjectivity of values”

14. Kantianism “A brief introduction to Kantian ethics”

MINDS, BODIES, PERSONS

15. Descartes EP chapter 5

16. Ryle “Descartes’ Myth”

17. Materialism “Eliminative Materialism”

FREE WILL

18. Determinism EP chapter 6

19. Compatibilism “Of Liberty and Necessity” **Paper 2 due**

20. Incompatibilism “The Powers of Rational Beings”

PERSONHOOD

21. Synchronic Identity EP chapter 6

22. Continuity theories “A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality”

23. Skepticism about personhood “Personal Identity”

MEANING OF LIFE

24. Creativity “The Meaning of Human Existence”

25. Meaning and Morality “The Meaning of Lives”

26. summary lecture **Paper 3 due**