

KNOWLEDGE, REALITY, VALUES
CORE STUDIES 1210 TR 2A
Spring 2013

Room: 3407 Boylan Days: Tues. & Thurs. Time: 2:15 – 3:30	Instructor: Professor Lurz Office: 3307 Boylan phone: 951-5311 email: rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu Office hours: Tues & Thurs. 1:15-2:15
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a general introduction to a number of core issues in philosophy. Issues such as God existence, the nature of the self, the mind, and free will, the relative or objective status of values, and the possibility and limits of human knowledge will be examined and debated from both a contemporary and historical perspective.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Introduction to Philosophy* a course packet of readings may be purchased from Far Better Printing on Hillel Place. Also, course lessons will be available on our Blackboard account for the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester, you should be familiar with a number of seminal philosophical issues (e.g., God's existence, freedom of the will, personal identity, the possibility and extent of knowledge, the objective status of values) and philosophical theories (e.g., determinism, compatibilism, the theory of agency, skepticism, idealism, realism, relativism, and objectivism). In addition, you should be familiar with a number of important philosophical figures and their views in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: a midterm exam = 40%; final exam = 40%; take-home exercise = 10%; and class participation and attendance= 10%. The grades are not based on a curve or scale.

EXAMS: The midterm exam and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and a short essay section. The final exam will not be cumulative.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is recorded each session. Students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions. Students late for class may be excluded from the room.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

Center for Student Disability Services: In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to

set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Non-attendance because of religious beliefs: See p. 49 in the 2011-2012 Bulletin

GRADES: A+ = 97-100; A = 93-96; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59

SYLLABUS (Subject to change):

Dates	Subject Matter & Readings	Dates	Subject Matter & Readings
	<p>I. Questions About Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 1 (on our blackboard account) <p>I. Questions About Appearance, Reality, and Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Descartes' <i>Meditations</i> I, II, VI; Berkeley's "A Dialogue Between Hylas and Philonous" <p>II. Questions About Morality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 4, Parts 1 & 2 (blackboard) Reading: Rachels' "Morality is not Relative" 		<p>III. Questions About Free Will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 3, parts 1-3 (blackboard) Readings: Taylor's "Freedom & Determinism" & John Hospers' "A Psychoanalytic Defense of Hard Determinism" <p>IV. Questions About the Self and the Mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson 5, Parts 1-3 (blackboard) Readings: Perry's "A Dialogue on Personal Identity & Immortality"
Tues., March 19 th	MIDTERM EXAM	Friday, May 24 th 1-3 PM	FINAL EXAM