

SYLLABUS Philosophy 1210 Spring 2013

Dr. Dena Shottenkirk

Text: *Knowledge, Reality, and Values* by Jamie Lindsay & Dena Shottenkirk (Cognella Press, 2012)

- January 28 Introduction, Syllabus Review
- January 31 Intro & Critical Reasoning
- Feb. 4 Plato's *Apology*
- Feb. 6 Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Feb. 11 Boethius' *Consolations of Philosophy*
- Feb. 13 Ibn-Sina's *De Anima & On the Division of the Rational Sciences*
- Feb. 18 SCHOOL CLOSED
- Feb. 20 Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*
- Feb. 25 Descartes' *Of the Things Which We May Doubt*
- Feb. 27 Spinoza's *Ethics*
- March 4 Hobbes' *Leviathan* **PAPER #1 DUE**
- March 6 Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- March 11 Hume's *On the Origin of Ideas & Of the Standard of Taste*
- March 13 Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
- March 15 Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals & What is Enlightenment?*
- March 18 Pascal's *Pensees* & Kierkegaard's *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*
- March 20 Mill's *Utilitarianism* **Re-write Due**
- March 25- APRIL 2 SPRING RECESS March 27
- April 1 Dostoyovsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* & Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*
- April 3 A.J. Ayer's *Language, Truth, Logic*
- April 8 W.K. Clifford's *The Ethics of Belief* **PAPER #2 DUE**
- April 10 William James' *The Will to Believe*

April 15	A. J. Ayer's <i>Language, Truth, and Logic</i>
April 17	Simone de Beauvoir's <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i>
April 22	Hannah Arendt's <i>Thinking and Moral Consideration</i>
April 24	Nelson Goodman's <i>Ways of Worldmaking</i>
April 29	Thomas Nagel's <i>Brains in a Vat</i>
May 6	John Searle's <i>Indeterminacy, Empiricism, and the First Person</i> <b>Re-write Due</b>
May 8	Onora O'Neill's <i>On Public Reason</i>
May 13	Sibyl Schwarzenbach's <i>On Civic Friendship</i>
MAY 15	Review

### Requirements:

Attendance: More than 3 unexcused absences, and the grade will be dropped one grade point for each absence. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class.

Class participation: Students are expected to participate in class discussions giving comments relevant to the text and readings. Texting on phones or surfing the internet will result in a dropped grade.

Paper #1: Write a 5 page paper (Times New Roman, 11 font, 1" margins top, bottom, sides) that is critical analysis of any two readings to date (this section is an **exegesis only**).

Papter #2: Write a 7 page paper (Times New Roman, 11 font, 1" margins top, bottom, sides) that is critical analysis of any two reading to date: this can be a comparison. Five to six pages should be exegesis followed by a page to two pages of your *argument* against of for the readings.

Test: Final, true/false test.

### Assessment and Grading:

Paper #1:	due Oct. 10	20%
	Re-write due	Nov. 5

	30%
Paper #2:	due Nov. 14
	Re-write due Dec. 10
Final Exam (not graded on curve)	30%
Class participation	10%
Attendance	10%

### **Goals of Course:**

1. Students will gain a basic understanding of the broad discipline of philosophy
2. Students will develop their critical reasoning skills
3. Students will develop their ability to write and verbally communicate their ideas

### **Contact:**

Email: [DSHOTTENKIRK@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:DSHOTTENKIRK@brooklyn.cuny.edu) office hours: Monday 5:00- 6:00. My office is 3311 Boylan. I do not check email over the weekend. *Please limit emails to essential communication; it is not necessary to email regarding missed classes. It is better to speak in person regarding that.*

### **How to succeed in this class:**

- Keep up on readings. Come to class prepared and expect to read the texts at least twice. Outline the main points. Quiz yourself or have a classmate quiz you.
- Participate in Class Discussions. *If you have not understood some of the material, ask in class for a fuller explanation.*
- Study for the test with a study group.
- Re-write the papers. I offer students the chance to re-write their papers and to raise the grade on the basis of the comments I make. (one time offer per paper only!) In helping students do that, I offer to meet with any student individually to discuss the comments I've made on their paper.

**Regarding Plagiarism:** *Students, please note: I take this very seriously.*

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.

**Regarding Religious Holidays:**

Please note page 53 in the Bulletin and its reference to the state law regarding non-attendance because of religious beliefs.

**Regarding Disability:**

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.