

**KNOWLEDGE, REALITY, VALUES**  
**CORE STUDIES 1210 TRB**  
Fall 2012

Room: TBA Days: Tues. & Thurs. Time: 9:30-10:45 AM	Instructor: Professor Lurz Office: 3307 Boylan phone: 951-5311 email: <a href="mailto:rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu">rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu</a> Office hours: Tues & Thurs. 1-1:25
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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, the problem of evil, 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%; and class participation and attendance= 20%.

**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
10/16	<p><b>I. Questions About Philosophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesson 1 (on our blackboard account)</li> </ul> <p><b>I. Questions About Appearance, Reality, and Knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readings: Descartes' <i>Meditations</i> I, II, VI; Berkeley's "A Dialogue Between Hylas and Philonous"</li> </ul> <p><b>II. Questions About God, Faith, and Rationality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesson 2, Parts 1-3 (blackboard)</li> <li>Readings: Aquinas' "The Five Ways"; Mackie's "Evil &amp; Omnipotence"; Pascal's "The Wager"</li> </ul> <p><b>MIDTERM EXAM</b></p>	12/21 (Friday) at 8-10 AM	<p><b>III. Questions About Free Will</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesson 3, parts 1-3 (blackboard)</li> <li>Readings: Taylor's "Freedom &amp; Determinism"; and Frankfurt's "Freedom of Will and the Concept of Person" (on blackboard)</li> </ul> <p><b>IV. Questions About Morality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesson 4, Parts 1 &amp; 2 (blackboard)</li> <li>Reading: Rachels' "Morality is not Relative"</li> </ul> <p><b>V. Questions About the Self and the Mind</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesson 5, Parts 1-3 (blackboard)</li> <li>Readings: Perry's "A Dialogue on Personal Identity &amp; Immortality"</li> </ul> <p><b>FINAL EXAM</b></p>

**Other Important Dates:****There will be no classes on: 10/18, 10/25, 11/22**

Friday August 31 Last day to add a course

Monday September 10 Last day for undergraduate students to file Pass/Fail application

Friday September 14 Last day to drop a course without a grade

Wednesday September 19 Last day for undergraduate students to apply to take Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS final examinations

Monday October 15 Last day to file for Fall 2012 Graduation

Thursday November 8 Last day for undergraduate students to resolve Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS and INC grades

Friday November 9 Last day to apply for withdrawal