PHIL 1100
Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2017

Professor Karen Bennett
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322 Goldwin Smith Hall
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:15-12:15 and by appointment
Note: My office is not wheelchair accessible. Please e-mail me if you need to set up a meeting elsewhere.

Teaching Assistants
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Required Texts
• A few articles available on Blackboard.

Recommended Online Resources
The publisher’s student resources for the textbook (useful for studying):
The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy: (google it; the address is too long to put here)
Website for the Philosophy Talk public radio show: http://www.philosophytalk.org

Note: you must cite these resources if you consult them for papers.

Evaluation
• Writing Assignments: 65%
  You will complete four writing assignments for this course. The first is very short, and only worth 7.5% of your grade. The second assignment is a philosophical dialogue, worth 17.5% of your grade. The final two assignments will be 5-7 page argumentative papers, worth 20% apiece. (More details on all assignments to come.)

• Final Exam: 20%
  There will be a final exam during the time slot scheduled by the registrar: Dec. 9th 2-4:30.

• Participation: 15%
  Your participation grade will be determined by the extent to which you are actively engaged in the course; contributions to class discussion are most important, but attendance and individual meetings also count. Your TA will regularly assign brief homework assignments; these contribute to your participation grade as well.
**Grading Policies**

1. Extensions can be granted on papers, but you have to talk to your TA a few days in advance. If you do not make arrangements beforehand, late papers will be downgraded by 1/3 letter grade per day.
2. To pass this class, you must complete all four writing assignments and take the final exam.

**Notes on Academic Integrity**

1. Each student in this course is required to adhere to Cornell’s Academic Integrity Code: [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm)
   It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Code, and what constitutes a violation of it. All work submitted must be the student’s own, and all sources must be properly cited.
2. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Further, all papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the usage policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.
3. Students are not permitted to buy or sell any course materials, online or otherwise. This includes handouts, paper topics, homework questions, etc. Such behavior constitutes academic misconduct.

**Use of Blackboard Ultra**

Our class is piloting Blackboard Ultra, an updated version of Blackboard that Cornell is considering adopting in the future. This pilot is an essential part of the Academic Technology Division’s effort to provide Cornell with the best learning management system available. They recognize that learning Blackboard Ultra may involve a brief period of adjustment. Additionally, they will ask you to provide feedback on Blackboard Ultra by completing two brief online surveys. Towards the middle of the semester, they will invite some students to provide more detailed feedback in small focus groups. They appreciate your contribution to this important Cornell project.”

Here is the URL: [https://cornell-pilot.blackboard.com](https://cornell-pilot.blackboard.com)

You will be automatically enrolled when you enroll in the course (perhaps with a few hours’ delay). I will use Blackboard Ultra to post paper topics and send occasional e-mails, and you will use it to submit each of the four papers (Turnitin works through Blackboard). Finally, your TA might use it to assign homework questions or online discussions. If you have trouble with Blackboard Ultra, go here [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLontYaReEU1seUE3ACG3sEc3zR7Br7URU](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLontYaReEU1seUE3ACG3sEc3zR7Br7URU) or contact Academic Technologies directly at 255-9760 or acadtech@cornell.edu
Tentative Schedule of Readings

All readings are in the 7th edition of the Perry/Bratman/Fischer anthology unless they are marked with an asterisk (*). Readings so marked are available in the “readings” section of the Blackboard site. Note that almost all of the readings are also in the 6th edition.

0. Introduction
          Perry, Bratman, and Fischer, “Logical Toolkit,” 8-13

1. The Existence of God
   8/28  Aquinas, “The Existence of God” (from Summa Theologica), just the paragraph on 43
          starting “the second way derives…”
   8/30  Pascal, “The Wager,” 50-53
   9/4   No class (Labor Day)
   9/6   continued
   9/11  First assignment due
          Leibniz, “God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds,” 89-90
          *Voltaire, Candide, chapters 1 and 28
   9/13  *Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence”
   9/18  continued; also Adams, selection from “Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God,”
          118-120 (just sections 4.0, 4.1, 4.2)
          Optional: Stump, “The Mirror of Evil,” 130-139

2. Freedom of the Will
          only
          *Holbach, “The Illusion of Free Will”
          *Darrow, two very short selections from his defense at the Leopold and Loeb trial
   9/25  Second assignment due
          *Stace, “The Problem of Free Will”
   9/27  Frankfurt, “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person,” 440-449
   10/2  Chisholm, “Human Freedom and the Self,” 387-394
          van Inwagen, another part of “The Powers of Rational Beings”: 401 (“Let us look carefully…”) to end.

3. Ethics
   10/4  no class
   10/9  no class (fall break)
   10/11 Perry, Bratman, and Fischer, “Writing Philosophy Papers,” 14-20
          *Bennett, “Some Helpful Hints for Writing Philosophy Papers”
          Write a Crap Philosophy Essay”
   10/13 Third assignment part 1 due at 5 PM—note that this is a Friday
10/16 *Rachels, “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism”
    Carritt, “Some Criticisms of Utilitarianism,” 500-501
10/23 Smart, “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism,” 502-509
10/25 **Third assignment due at 5 PM**
    Kant, from *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, 527-543
    Optional: Velleman, “A Brief Introduction to Kantian Ethics” 544-560
10/30 continued
11/1 *Nagel, “Moral Luck”
11/6 Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality,” 518-526
11/8 **Fourth assignment part 1 due at 5 PM**
    *Wolf, “Moral Saints”

4. Death and the Meaning of Life
   11/13 * Philip Larkin, “Aubade” (a poem)
    * Epicurus, “Letter to Menoeceus”
    * Lucretius, selection from Book 3 of *On the Nature of Things*
   11/15 Nagel, “Death,” 849-853
11/20 **Fourth assignment due**
    *Williams, “The Makropulos Case: Reflections on the Tedium of Immortality”

11/22 no class (Thanksgiving break)
    Russell, “The Value of Philosophy,” 17-20

**Final exam: Saturday, December 9 2-4:30 PM**