



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

PHI 110 Introduction to Philosophy

Term: July 8 – August 2, 2019

Instructor: Jacob Klein

Home Institution: Colgate University

Email: jklein@fastmail.com

Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: To be determined

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Discussion session: 3 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course introduces students to some of the central questions of the western philosophical tradition and to the methods philosophers use in investigating them. In particular, we will explore four fundamental philosophical questions: **(1)** What is the nature of knowledge and how is it possible? **(2)** What is the relationship between mind and body? **(3)** What is free will and do we have it? **(4)** What is the structure of morality? In pursuing these questions our focus will be argumentative: we'll evaluate arguments for their validity, soundness and cogency, and we'll work to apply the methods of philosophy to sharpen our own critical and argumentative skills. Students should complete this course with an appreciation of the depth and difficulty of these questions, and an understanding of some of the central ways in which philosophers have tried to answer them.

Course Goals:

The expectation is that students will leave this course with an understanding of and appreciation for philosophical study. Ideally, students will recognize that the methods of inquiry employed in philosophy have application in many areas of life, and will leave the course with a more active, critical, and reflective approach when assessing the merits of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.

Required Text:

Gendler, Siegel, and Cahn (eds). Elements of Philosophy: Readings from Past and Present
(New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)



Required course materials :

No course materials are required beyond the required texts. Any material not in the course textbook will be made available on the course website.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all course lectures.

Grading Policy:

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, weekly tests, and the results of your exams.

Attendance and Participation	20%	
Tests (Cumulative)		20%
Exam 1	30%	
Exam 2	30%	

Grading Scale:

A	100-96	C	75-72
A-	95-92	C-	71-68
B+	91-88	D+	67-64
B	87-84	D	63-60
B-	83-80	D-	59-56
C+	79-76		

Class Rules:

Students are expected to come to lecture having read the material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to engage in active discussion about that material. Philosophy is an inherently dialogical enterprise; we only progress in philosophy through active exchange of ideas and arguments. Computers may be used ONLY for taking notes. Cell phones must be turned off in class.

Course Schedule:

Unit One: The Nature of Knowledge

Day 1, Monday: Introduction to Philosophy and its Methods

Blackburn, "What Is Philosophy?" (1-5); "The Elements of Logic" (5-10)



Day 2, Tuesday: Skepticism and the Standard Account

"Introduction" (337-342); Plato, "What Is Knowledge?" (343-44); Descartes, Meditations 1 and 2 (351-57); **First Test**

Day 3, Wednesday: A Problem for the Standard Account

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"

Day 4, Thursday: A New Account of Knowledge

Nozick, "Knowledge" (346-50)

Day 5, Friday: A Reply to the Skeptic

Nozick, "Skepticism" (365-72); **Second Test**

Unit Two: Mind and Matter

Day 1, Monday: The Problem of Mind and Body

"Introduction" (549-552); Descartes, Sixth Meditation (553-61)

Day 2, Tuesday: The Case for Physicalism

Stoljar, "Physicalism" (578-83)

Day 3, Wednesday: A Problem for Physicalism

Nagel, "What is it like to be a Bat?" (620-28)

Day 4, Thursday: The Case for Dualism

Jackson, "The Knowledge Argument" (611-19) **Third Test**

Day 5, Friday: **Midterm Examination**

Unit Three: Freedom and Determinism

Day 1, Monday: Moral Responsibility and Causal Determinism

"Introduction" (452-453); A. J. Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity"(475-479)

Day 2, Tuesday: Libertarian Freedom

Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self" (480-87)

Day 3, Wednesday: A Revised Account of Freedom

Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will & the Concept of a Person"

Day 4, Thursday: The Nature of Moral Responsibility

Nagel, "Moral Luck" (208-16)

Day 5, Friday: **Fourth Test**

Unit Four: The Structure of Morality

Day 1, Monday: Consequentialism and Utilitarianism

"Introduction" (71-76); Mill, "Selections from Utilitarianism" (77-78)

Day 2, Tuesday: Utilitarianism Refined

Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism" (88-95)

Day 3, Wednesday: Objections to Utilitarianism

Williams, "Utilitarianism, Integrity and Responsibility"

Day 4, Thursday: Deontology Introduced

Kant, "Selections from the Groundwork," O'Neill, "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics" (112-113).

Day 5, Friday: Problems and Puzzles

Judith Jarvis Thomson, "The Trolley Problem (195-207)" **Fifth Test**

Final Examination