SYLLABUS FOR HU 2700-R02, "INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY", SPRING 2002

Instructor
Mr. Robertson (mdrobert@mtu.edu). Office hours: Wed. 2-3pm, 149 WAHC, 7-3280.

Course Objectives
The purpose of this course is to acquaint the students with some of the basic issues and methods of philosophy, and to expose the students to some of the most influential authors and texts in the Western philosophical tradition.

Texts

Grading
Tests, quizzes, participation, & homework, 40-50%; midterm, term paper, and/or final, 50-60%.

Attendance
Attendance is expected. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will lower their final semester grade by half a grade. Absences will also lower their participation scores, and exams and quizzes that are missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up.

Academic Integrity
MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "knowingly copying another's work and calling it one's own or not giving proper credit or citation." The penalties for plagiarism or other forms cheating range from receiving a failing grade on the work in question to expulsion from the university. Students who have any questions about this issue, or who have questions about whether they have properly cited their sources properly, should consult the instructor or a coach in the Writing Center.

MTU's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please contact Dr. Gloria Melton in the Dean's Office (phone: 7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may talk to your instructor, your advisor, a department chair, or the Affirmative Action Officer (phone: 7-3310).

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.
Week 1
1/14 1st day
1/16 Plato, Republic, Bk I; logic handout
1/18 Plato, Bk II

Week 2
1/21 MLK, Jr. day. No class
1/23 Plato, Bk. III-IV
1/25 Test 1

Week 3
1/28 Plato, Bk V
1/30 Plato, Bk VI
2/01 Plato, Bk VII

Week 4
2/04 Plato, Bk VIII-IX
2/06 Plato, Bk X
2/08 Winter carnival. No class

Week 5
2/11 Aristotle, Categories
2/13 Aristotle, Physics
2/15 Aristotle, Metaphysics, Bk I

Week 6
2/18 Aristotle, Metaphysics, Bk. VII
2/20 Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Qu. II
2/22 Midterm Exam

Week 7
2/25 Descartes, Meditations, I
2/27 Descartes, II
3/01 Papers due

Week 8
3/11 Descartes, III-IV
3/13 Descartes, V
3/15 Descartes, VI

Week 9
3/18 Locke, Berkeley, intros; Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Sec. I
3/20 Hume, Enquiry, Sec. II-III
3/22 Hume, Enquiry, IV

Week 10
3/25 Hume, Enquiry, V
3/27 Hume, Enquiry, VI; last day to turn in late papers
3/29 Good Friday. No class

Week 11
4/01 Hume, Enquiry, VII-VIII
4/03 Hume, Treatise of Human Nature
4/05 Hume, Enquiry, XII

Week 12
4/08 Test 2
4/10 Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Preface
4/13 Kant, CPR, Introduction

Week 13
4/16 Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals, Preface & 1st Sec.
4/18 Kant, FMM, 2nd Sec.
4/20 Mill, Utilitarianism, Ch. 1-2

Week 14
4/23 Mill, Ch. 3-5
4/25 Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols
4/27 Nietzsche, cont’d

Week 15
4/30 to be announced
5/01 to be announced
5/03 Review
5/?? Final Exam
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY  SPRING 2002

W. Sewell Walker 322  Office Hours: 10 A.M. - 11 A.M., MWF, 1 P.M. - 3 P.M., Th, or by appointment
Phone #s: Office 487-3242, Home 482-6038, E-mail: wsewel1@mtu.edu

TEXT: Ed L. Miller, Questions That Matter, Fourth Edition

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

You will study some famous philosophers' attempts to answer some very difficult philosophical questions. For example, is the mind something different from the brain or can mind be reduced to brain activities? Do our perceptions correspond to the way the world actually is? Is morality relative to cultures? Is morality even possible? Is there one conceptual framework that is adequate to guide moral decisions and, if so, what is it? If God is omnipotent and benevolent, why is there evil in the world? Can the existence of God be proved? You will be asked to read about, think about, and write about questions such as these. You should learn something about the nature of argumentation in the process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Course grade is primarily determined by three essay type hour exams, 20% each. The first hour exam will be in class on February 15, 2002. The second hour exam will be on March 29, 2002. The third hour exam will be during the scheduled final exam time. All three exams are required for a passing grade in the course.

2. You should submit a discussion question based on the readings, along with a suggested answer, as these are assigned. Discussion questions may be submitted in class only on the date they are due. At least two discussion questions may be missed to allow for excused absences. Flippant or irrelevant questions (or suggested answers) will be regarded as a non-submission. In addition, there will be occasional in class writing assignments which can be turned in only at the end of the class period. In class writing assignments will be checked for completeness and appropriateness. The discussion questions and in class writing assignments are worth 20% of the course grade. A solid record of in class writing assignments and discussion questions is needed to earn this portion of the course grade. In class writing assignments will require you to refer to your textbook, so you should bring your text to each class meeting.

3. At least two out of class writing assignments on assigned topics are due on the date announced in class. Quality of out of class writing assignments will be judged on the basis of quality of argumentation, logical organization, appropriateness to the assignment, degree of effort, completeness, etc. Out of class writing assignments are worth 10% of the course grade. Details on length, etc., will be given when the assignments are made.

4. Regular class attendance and participation in discussion is expected. If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what was assigned, covered or discussed in your absence. Class attendance and participation is worth 10% of the course grade.
READING SEQUENCE:

Chapter 1  What is Philosophy?
Chapter 2  A Little Logic
Chapter 13  God and Reason, pp. 309 - 317
Chapter 12  God and the World, pp. 290 - 297
Chapter 15  God & Evil
Chapter 16  Challenges to Morality
Chapter 17  Hedonism
Chapter 18  Utilitarianism
Chapter 19  The Role of Duty
Chapter 5  Mind and Matter
Chapter 6  Idealism
Chapter 9  The Way of Reason
Chapter 10  The Way of Experience
Chapter 21  Liberalism vs. Marxism
Chapter 22  The Question of Justice

The professor reserves the right to revise the syllabus as the course progresses.

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