

FEB. 07 2003

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND EDUCATION

PH 1020  
Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality  
3 (3-0-0) UT  
Winter 2003

Instructor: Ruth Michaels  
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Office hours: TBA

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Lecture/No pre-requisites

**Calendar Description**

This is an introduction to the classical problems of philosophy through study and critical discussion of selected philosophical classics and contemporary works. Emphasis will be placed on questions of the nature and extent of human knowledge and classic problems about the nature of reality and our place in it.

**Content Description**

We will consider classic philosophical problems related to human knowledge, the existence and nature of God, mind and its place in reality and concerns about determinism and freedom of the will. The methodology used will follow analytical practice: close attention will be paid to understanding the meaning of the concepts studied. Philosophical positions will be tested against rigorous counter argument.

**Texts**

- Feinberg, Joel & Shafer-Landau, Russ, *Reason & Responsibility*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition (required)
- Hacker, Diana, *A Canadian Pocket Style Manual* (required)

**Timeline**

A detailed syllabus will be distributed on the first day of classes.

**Evaluation**

• 2 short journal assignments.....	5%
• 1 short paper .....	10%
• 1 term paper .....	25%
• 4 Take-Home Quizzes .....	20%
• Midterm Examination .....	20%
• Final, registrar scheduled, Examination .....	20%

### **Evaluation Policies**

Extensions of assignment and paper deadlines will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise students requesting an extension will be required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the assignment has been completed in advance of the day *before* the work is due. For example, if a student requests an extension on the day before an assignment is due, a complete, or very nearly complete, draft of the paper must be shown to the instructor at the time of the request.

Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty in submitting their work on time.

**Penalties** for assignments submitted for credit late without prior permission from the instructor are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late**.

Deferred writing of a scheduled Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook.

### **Absences**

Students should be aware that they are expected to meet their academic responsibility to attend classes. The instructor reserves the right to debar a student from writing the final exam when the student has accumulated more than 10% (2-3 classes) unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of verifiable illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency. If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

### **WebCT**

Students will have access to online threaded discussion of course materials. Topics for discussion will be suggested by the instructor but students are encouraged to initiate discussion based on individual interests. Discussion contents may be viewed by the instructor for the purpose of directing lecture materials and evaluating class needs for instruction on particular topics or concepts. Participation is optional and no marks are given for discussion entries. Materials directing students on how to use the WebCT resources will be distributed in class. Additional help is available at the Library Computer Labs.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are encouraged to form study and discussion groups, however, assignments must be the independent work of the individual seeking credit for the assignments and students should be prepared to demonstrate that the work they turn in is their own. All forms of plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and will be dealt with as such. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with GPRC policy on plagiarism and cheating as outlined under *Student Responsibilities and Plagiarism and Cheating* in the Student Handbook.

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Tues./Thurs. A3 & B3  
Schedule of Assignments

**Week 1 through 4** (7<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.)

*Reason and Religious Belief*

- Journal Assignment #1 due 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. (out: 21<sup>st</sup> Jan.)
- Take-Home Quiz #1 due 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. (out: 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.)
- Journal Assignment #2 due 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. (out: 28<sup>th</sup> Jan.)

**Week 5 through 8** (4<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.)

*Human Knowledge: Its Grounds and Limits*

- Short Paper due 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. (out: 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.)
- Take-Home Quiz #2 due 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. (out: 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.)
- Midterm Exam 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

— Midterm Break (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar) —

**Week 9 through 11** (4<sup>th</sup> Mar. - 20<sup>th</sup> Mar.)

*Mind and Its Place in Nature*

- Take-Home Quiz #3 due 4<sup>th</sup> Mar. (out: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.)
- Term Paper due 20<sup>th</sup> Mar. (Topics distributed week #1)
- Take-Home Quiz #4 due 25<sup>th</sup> Mar. (out: 20<sup>th</sup> Mar.)

**Week 12 through 14** (25<sup>th</sup> Mar. - 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.)

*Determinism, Free Will and Responsibility*

**Final Examination is Registrar Scheduled**

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Detailed Syllabus & Reading Assignments

Week 1 through 4 (7<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.)

*Reason and Religious Belief*

- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. - 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
*The Existence and Nature of God*: Feinberg pp. 1-88
  - Anselm
  - Gaunilo
  - Rowe: The Ontological Argument
  - Aquinas
  - Clarke
  - Rowe: The Cosmological Argument
  - Parfit
  - Paley
  - Hume
  - Mathieu
- 21<sup>st</sup> Jan - 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.  
*The Problem of Evil*: Feinberg pp.89-120
  - Dostoevsky
  - Leibniz
  - Mackie
  - van Inwagen

Week 5 through 8 (4<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.)

*Human Knowledge: Its Grounds and Limits*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
*Scepticism*: Feinberg pp. 145-172
  - Pollock
  - Empiricus
  - Chisholm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. - 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
*Knowledge of the External World*: Feinberg pp. 173-265
  - Descartes
  - Moore
  - Locke
  - Berkeley

----- Midterm Break : 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar. -----

**Week 9 through 11 (4<sup>th</sup> Mar.-20<sup>th</sup> Mar.)**

*Mind and Its Place in Nature*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar. - 6<sup>th</sup> Mar.  
*The Mind-Body Problem*: Feinberg pp.337-383
  - Campbell
  - Jackson
  - Carruthers
  - Churchland
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mar.  
*Can Non-Humans Think ?*: Feinberg pp.384-419
  - Searle
  - Lycan
  - Allen
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mar.- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar.  
*Personal Identity and Survival of Death*: Feinberg pp.420-454
  - Dennett
  - Penelhum
  - Perry

**Week 12 through 14 (25<sup>th</sup> Mar.- 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.)**

*Determinism, Free Will and Responsibility*

- 25<sup>th</sup> Mar.- 8<sup>th</sup> Apr.  
*Hard Determinism, Compatibilism & Libertarianism*: Feinberg pp. 455-512
  - Holbach
  - Honderich
  - Ayer
  - Stace
  - Chisholm
  - Kane
- 10<sup>th</sup> Apr. - 15<sup>th</sup> Apr.  
*Freedom and Moral Responsibility*: Feinberg pp. 513-537
  - Strawson
  - Frankfurt
  - Nagel