

Philosophy 1012: Mind & Knowledge, Fall 2017

Instructor Dr. Max Deutsch Phone 3917 2796
Office RRST 1017 E-mail philmethod@gmail.com
Office Hours Th 2.15 – 4pm and by appt.,

DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to philosophical issues concerning knowledge and the mind. These include metaphysical questions about what minds are, such as whether the mind is something non-physical, and questions about what knowledge is and how (and whether) we can obtain it. We will also cover questions about the existence of god, the possibility of free will, and personal identity.

TEXT:

There will be plenty of reading but all of it will be **available online**, via a MOODLE site. No purchase necessary.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

“What’s expected of me?” **No experience necessary. Curiosity, an open mind, hard thinking, and a willingness to argue and contribute REQUIRED.**

Goals:

- To understand and evaluate philosophical arguments and positions
- To hone your skill at argument and analysis.
- To get clearer about your personal philosophical views and outlook

Requirements:

1. There will be two exams. The first (midterm) will be worth 25% of your course grade. The second (final), 25%. Both will consist of short answer questions.
2. Another 30% of your grade will come from your performance on a short term paper (1200 words).
3. There will be tutorial meetings and assignments associated with some number of these meetings. Your attendance and work in tutorials will count for 20% of your grade.
4. ~~There will be several surprise quizzes on the day’s reading over the course of the term. These will count for...~~

WEB RESOURCES:

There is a **MOODLE** site for this course. It will contain lecture notes (first available on day of lecture around 9am), a discussion board (Use it!), study guides, handouts, your grades, etc.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (04/09): What is philosophy and what makes a good argument?

Week 2 (11/09): Good arguments

Week 3 (18/09): Skepticism

Week 4 (25/09): Skepticism

Week 5 (09/10): What is knowledge?

Week 6 (23/10): What is knowledge?

Week 7 (30/10): The ontological argument and the problem of evil

Week 8 (06/11): Physicalism

Week 9 (13/11): Physicalism and Free will

Week 10 (20/11): Free will

Week 11 (27/11): Personal identity

READINGS:

(1) Descartes' *Meditations*, (2) E. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?", St. Anselm's *Proslogion*, F. Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know", T. Sider, "Free Will and Determinism", J. Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism is wrong, it's easy to catch, and there are severe penalties for it at HKU. So, don't do it.

See here: <http://www.rss.hku.hk/plagiarism/page2s.htm>

And here: <http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism>