

**Preliminary Course Syllabus (Slightly Adjusted After First Week of Class)**

Honors Introduction to Philosophy

PHI 2010H Section 0205

MWF 10:30-11:20 Spring 2018

Don Jones

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**A. Instructor**

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Office Hours                        Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:30-1 PM                      By appointment otherwise

Optional Online Chat Room virtual office hours announced from week to week

**B. Course Description in UCF Catalog**

Inquiry into the meaning and justification of fundamental ideas and beliefs concerning reality, knowledge, and values; application to relevant topics in ethics, religion, and politics.

**C. Course Readings**

All readings will be online or distributed in class.

**D. Course Grade**

Warning: Please ignore the percentages listed to the extreme right in the webcourses Grades page. They are computed automatically by the webcourses software according to a formula that does not take into account our course grade schema. For example, the webcourses software will count all quizzes even though we will drop two. It does not take into account the varied weighting of the different assignments. Beware: you can look like you are getting a 94 percent, for example, in the course when you are in fact getting a lower percentage as computed by our course grade schema.

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1/5 Exam One.         | Multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answer plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay |
| 1/5 Exam Two.         | Multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answer plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay |
| 1/5 Exam Three        | Multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answer plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay |
| 1/5 10 Online Quizzes | Each quiz is 10 multiple choice, matching, or true-false questions online                           |
| 1/5 Final Exam        | Multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answer plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay |

Plus-Minus. We will not use the plus minus grading system.

General Grading Criteria for Essays: Clarity of thesis, support for thesis, awareness of objections to thesis and its supporting reasoning, response to objections, overall logical coherence, and quality of writing.

Warning: Please be very careful to avoid plagiarism in essays and in Discussion postings. In general, you are most welcome, indeed encouraged, to seek outside sources (written, online, or in-person) for material but must report the source, including page numbers. Paraphrases and direct quotations should be in quotation marks and footnoted. You are welcome to use an informal footnote style by inserting a brief reference inside parentheses in your text that refers to an item that you list in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

The consequences of plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment, a possible “F” on the exam (if it occurs on an exam), a possible “F” in the course, and required recommendation to Student Conduct for further disciplinary action, including dismissal from UCF.

## E. Course Exams, Quizzes, and Writings Schedule

**Please note: Your account listing of “Courses” at webcourses should show a link to GEP PHI2010 18Spring. If you click on the link, you will be taken to a website that lists three little Pre-Tests to take at the beginning of the course. We ask that you please take the three little quizzes. While they are not required for the course and do not figure in any way in your course grade, they do help the University assess how well courses attain their goals. At the end of the course, there will be three little Post=Tests.**

**Please note that the GEP site is not the website for our course information. To find our course information please go to your “Courses” list on webcourses, and select our course website at PHI2010H 18Spring 0205.**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Exam One                 | In class Friday 2 February  |
| Exam Two                 | In class Friday 2 March   |
| Spring Break             | 12-17 March   |
| Withdrawal Deadline      | Wednesday 21 March  |
| Exam Three               | In class Friday 13 April  |
| Top 8 Online Quizzes     | 10 online quizzes posted midnight each Friday and closing the following Wednesday at midnight. Covers in-class presentations and discussions from the week that ended on Friday plus readings from that week. |
| Last Day of Our Class    | Monday 23 April   |
| Comprehensive Final Exam | In classroom Monday 30 April 10:00 AM-12:50 PM Covers entire course.  |

## F. Comments on Course Exams

Required Exams. Exams consist of multiple choice, matching, true-false, and short answer questions plus two essays listed below.

One 1-2 page essay is written in class selected from a list of at least 5 questions distributed with the exam.

One 2-3 page take-home essay is to be submitted to Turnitin.com by midnight of the day of the Exam. Please use course ID of 17098527 with password of Pinball1972. Make-up exams arranged individually as needed. Standard documentation may be requested.

Review Sheets. For each exam, review sheets posted online in an area in a folder in the Files area of the course website with that exam's name ("Exam One Information", for example).

### G. Course Reading Pages

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area of the course website.

### H. Course Calendar for Course Exams, Quizzes, and Essays

**(When a date is given, it is to be understood as by midnight that day unless otherwise stated)**

**Please remember to take the three little GEP Pre-Tests at the GEP PHI2010 18Spring website which can be found at the webcourses "Courses" list.**

#### **(Exams in Red)**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Monday 8 January         | Essay topics for Take-Home Essay for Exam One posted in Pages area in folder entitled "Essay Topics for Take-Home Essay for Exam One"   |
| Monday 8 January         | Readings for Unit One posted. Unit One runs up to Exam One.<br>Topics for week one posted.  |
| Friday 12 January        | Quiz One Posted. One Attempt.<br>Topics for week two posted.  |
| Monday 15 January        | Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No class. Quiz One closes Wednesday 17 January.   |
| Wednesday 17 January     | Quiz One closes. One attempt.   |
| Friday 19 January        | Quiz Two opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week three posted.   |
| Wednesday 24 January     | Quiz Two Closes   |
| Friday 26 January        | Quiz Three opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week four posted.  |
| Wednesday 1 February     | Quiz Three closes. One attempt.   |
| <b>Friday 3 February</b> | <b>Exam One in class. Covers Unit One. Take-Home essay for Exam One is due at midnight to Turnitin.com at course ID of 17098527 with password of Pinball1972.</b><br><br>Readings for Unit Two posted in Pages area.<br>Topics for Take-Home Essay for Exam Two posted in Pages area in folder entitled "Essay Topics for Take-Home Essay for Exam Two" It is due Friday 2 March.<br>Topics for week five posted. |
| Friday 9 February        | Quiz Four opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week six posted.  |
| Wednesday 14 February    | Quiz Four closes. One attempt.  |
| Friday 16 February       | Quiz Five opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week seven posted.  |
| Wednesday 21 February    | Quiz Five closes. One attempt.  |
| Friday 23 February       | Quiz Six opens.<br>Topics for week eight posted.  |
| Wednesday 28 February    | Quiz Six closes. One attempt.   |
| <b>Friday 2 March</b>    | <b>Exam Two in class. Covers Unit Two. Take-home essay for Exam Two due at midnight to Turnitin.com at course ID 17098527 with password of Pinball1972.</b><br><br>Topics for Take-Home Essay for Exam Three posted in Pages area. Due Friday 13 April.<br>Topics for week nine posted.   |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Friday 9 March     | Topics for week ten after Spring Break posted.   |
| 12-17 March        | Spring Break   |
| Wednesday 21 March | Withdrawal Date  |
| Friday 23 March    | Quiz Seven opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week eleven posted in folder in Pages area.                                   |
| Wednesday 27 March | Quiz Seven closes. One attempt.  |
| Friday 28 March    | Quiz Eight opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week twelve posted.   |
| Monday 2 April     | Quiz Eight closes. One attempt.  |
| Friday 6 April     | Quiz Nine opens. One attempt.<br>Topics for week thirteen posted.  |
| Wednesday 11 April | Quiz Nine closes. One attempt.   |
| Friday 13 April    | Exam Three in class. Take-Home Essay for Exam Three due at midnight at course ID of 17098527 with password of Pinball1972. |
|                    | Topics for week fourteen posted.   |
| Friday 20 April    | Quiz Ten opens.  |
| Wednesday 25 April | Quiz Ten closes. One attempt.  |
| Monday 30 April    | 10 AM – 12:50 PM in our classroom. Comprehensive Final Exam. Covers entire course.   |

### G. Course Reading Pages

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area in a folder named for the upcoming Unit such as “Unit One Readings”.

### I. Online Requirements

The course requires repeated access to the course website to retrieve readings, to participate in discussions if you choose to do so, to view power point slides, to view videos, and for a variety of other activities, including online presentations for those who choose to do them.

If you do not see the course on your Webcourses list, or have other difficulties, please email me at [donjones@ucf.edu](mailto:donjones@ucf.edu).

Posting comments in the Discussion area is not required at any time in the course, nor is attending optional chat rooms (there are no required chat rooms). Nevertheless, considerable credit can be earned toward an upcoming required essay for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have listed below how points can be earned. I will endeavor to update one’s postings points totals once a week, in the best of weeks twice, so you can determine where you stand. My main way to apply postings points is toward an essay for the upcoming exam. Please see the handout on postings points for more information.

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com Please make sure you follow the same documentation guidelines for Discussion postings as for required essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.

### J. How We Proceed

We will start with contemporary discussions and use those to branch back into representative philosophers. For each topic we will try to combine both contemporary and historic examples.

I tend to put a lot of optional material into the Discussion area of the course. My normal week is to post some guidelines in an area for the material of that week, note some key points that might need expansion, hope that you read the material, and invite questions or discussion of the material. I also tend to put quite a few topics up for discussion just because they seem interesting to me or because I think some of you might be interested. You never need to participate in these discussions, though you are invited to do so. And, as far as testing goes, what you are to know for exam questions will be listed and duly noted in the posted Guidelines for Exams listed in the Pages area, so you won't have to wonder.

Lists of Readings, Guidelines for Exams, Postings Points Guidelines, Weekly Notes, and Suggested Independent Tracks will normally occur in the Pages area of the course website.

Practice Quizzes: Optional practice quizzes with practice multiple choice questions will occur in the Quizzes area. They do not show up in the Assignments area unless they are a required quiz. I urge you to take the practice quizzes for a given quiz before taking the required quiz.

## K. Turnitin.com

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please post at course ID of 17098527 with password of Pinball1972.

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com. Please make sure you follow the same guidelines for Discussion postings as for normal essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.

## L. Postings Credit

### 1. Postings Not Required

First, let me remind you that postings on the course website are not required. The only required activities in this course are the Exams. So, if you like, you can just ignore the stuff below. Of course, you can post comments on the website without regard to whether you get credit for doing so. Regardless, you might want to know that you can get credit for having done so.

One can build up course credit from postings. One essay of 2-3 pages is worth 20 points. The points you accumulate on Discussion postings can count toward that essay.

### 2. Postings Can Count in Place of an Essay.

Postings on the course website (or combinations of postings) can count in place of one upcoming required essay, but never in place of the multiple choice quizzes. So, if you got 20 points in the postings area, you can assume full credit on your next required essay.

### 3. Postings Points Posted

We will have a column for postings points. I will try to update that once a week (often Sunday), so that you can know how you stand with respect to the points earned to be used in place of essays for the next upcoming exam.

### 4. Grading Guidelines for Optional Postings Points

I will endeavor to use the following guidelines for assigning points for postings. I will keep a written record of these assignments of points so that at any given moment you can know why you got the points you got (or failed to get):

#### a. General Guideline:

The paradigm example of a full credit (20 points) posting (or sequence of postings), corresponding to full credit on the next upcoming required essay, would be a posting (or sequence of postings) with a clear thesis that was well supported with good reasons, was as close to valid as natural language arguments can be, showed an awareness of at

least one objection either to the supporting reasoning or to the validity of the argument, responded to that objection, and showed overall logical coherence.

b. Specific Guidelines (with rough range of possible points in parenthesis):

- 1) Distinction that clarifies a line of reasoning or application (4-8 points)
- 2) Analogy that clarifies or extends a line of thought (4-12 points)
- 3) Reconceptualization of some problem that opens up a new way of understanding it (4-16 points)
- 4) Neat little example that shows something relevant to some point (4-8 points)
- 5) Counter example to some thesis, argument, or supporting reason (4-8 points)
- 6) Application of some material that we are studying that shows understanding and relevance of the material (1-16 points, depending upon its development and importance)
- 7) Visual, auditory, or other multimedia illustration of some point in the course (6-48 points)
- 8) And lots of other neat stuff that you can do (1-48 points)