Preliminary Course Syllabus

(Will Be Adjusted Slightly After The First Week of Class)

PHI 3083 Research Methods 3 Semester Hours Credit

Fall 2014
Don Jones

Warning:

The message below is from The Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:

“As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 27th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.”

Required Academic Activity for this course:

Take “Academic Activity” Quiz. Opens midnight Tuesday 20 August, closes midnight Wednesday 27 August in Quizzes area of course website, though actually remains accessible for 8 weeks for late enrollees or for those whose financial aid is delayed.

Worth a total possible 10 points that can be added to Final Course Grade. Consists of 5 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. Is set for unlimited attempts, saving the highest score.

Covers essentials of logic as outlined on “Deduction” handout in the Files area of the course website.

Contents of This Syllabus

A. Instructor
B. Course Description in UCF Catalog
C. Course Texts
D. Course Grade
E. Course Exams
F. Comments on Course Exams
G. Course Readings
H. Preliminary Course Calendar
I. Online Requirements
J. How We Proceed
K. Turnitin.com
L. Postings Credit

A. Instructor

Donald E. Jones Psychology Building 231
Office Phone 407-823-2759
Email donjones@ucf.edu

Philosophy Department Psychology Building 220
Philosophy Phone 407-823-2273
Philosophy Email phildept@ucf.edu
Philosophy Website http://www.cah.ucf.edu/philosophy/

Teaching Schedule
Research Methods T, Th 3-4:15
Ethics in the 21st Century T, Th 4:30-5:45
Philosophy of Psychology W 6-7:15
Ethics in Science Web
Office Hours
Monday 12-2, Tuesday and Thursday 11-2
By appointment otherwise

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

B. Course Description in UCF Catalog

PR: Philosophy or Humanities major or C.I. Sources, methods, and styles of research in Philosophy. Aimed at enhancing the research, reading, and writing skills of undergraduate philosophy students. Odd Fall.

C. Course Text

All readings will be online or distributed in class.

D. Course Grade

1/5 Exam One. 25 multiple choice plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay
1/5 Exam Two. 25 multiple choice plus 1 in-class essay and 1 take-home essay
2/5 Presentation. Requirements to be formalized at the end of the first week of class

1/5 Comprehensive Final Exam. 25 multiple choice plus 2 in-class essays.

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


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

Exam One In class Thursday 25 September
Exam Two In class Thursday 23 October
Withdrawal Deadline Monday 27 October
Presentation In class Starting Thursday 28 October
Last Day of Our Class Tuesday 25 November. (University last day of classes is Monday 1 December)

Comprehensive Final Exam In classroom, Thursday 4 December 1-3:50 PM

F. Comments on Course Exams

Please bring a raspberry colored Scan Tron for each exam.

Required Exams. Exams consist of 25 multiple choice 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 8413778 with a password of rosefall14. Make up exams will be arranged individually as needed. Standard documentation may be requested.

Review Sheets. For each exam, review sheets will be posted online in an area in a folder with that exam’s name (“Exam One Information”, for example).
G. Course Reading Pages

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in a course content area. Online readings to supplement the paper readings will be posted for each unit on the course website.

H. Preliminary Course Calendar: Will Be Adjusted After The First Week of Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 August</td>
<td>Introduction, Course Description, Philosophical Reasoning, Philosophical Theories, Philosophical Expertise and Rule Following, What is understanding?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 August</td>
<td>Meaning, Art, and Reading. ”Intelligence Without Representation”, Hubert Dreyfus, <a href="http://www.class.uh.edu/cogsci/dreyfus.html">http://www.class.uh.edu/cogsci/dreyfus.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29 August</td>
<td>Reading, Writing, and Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 November</td>
<td>Exam Three (Covers Material Since Exam Three)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26 November</td>
<td>Last Day of Our Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28 November</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2 December</td>
<td>Last Day of University Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 December</td>
<td>University-Wide Study Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 December</td>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I. Online Requirements

The course requires repeated access to the course website to retrieve readings, to participate in discussions, 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.

To login to the course website, one route is to go to Webcourses2, login, and click on PHH 3460. If you do not see the course on your Webcourses2 list, or have other difficulties, please email me at 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 for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have posted below a list of 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 essays 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 Exam 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 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, 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 an area of the course website.
Practice exams and exam multiple choice questions will occur in the Quizzes area.

K. Turnitin.com

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please use course ID 6686119 of with a password of rose6.

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. Below, in number 4, is a rough formula for doing so. Let’s say that each exam is worth 100 points. Of those 100 points, 50 go to multiple choice (2 points each for 25 questions) and roughly 50 go for two essays of approximately 2-3 pages each (25 points for each essay).

2. Postings Can Count in Place of Exam Essays

Postings on the course website (or combinations of postings) can count in place of upcoming exam essays, but never in place of the multiple choice. So, if you got 25 points in the postings area, you can assume full credit on one essay for the next upcoming exam. If you got 50 points, that would be full credit for two essays. And, of course, people will fall in between: For example, if you got 36 postings points, that would mean full credit for one essay plus 11 points (36-25) for the second essay. You should then write one essay (on which you already have 11 points) for the next upcoming exam. And so on.

3. Postings Points Posted

I have added a column for postings points. I will try to update that twice a week (at least Wednesday and Sunday), if not more frequently, 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 (25 points) posting (or sequence of postings), corresponding to a full credit essay on an upcoming exam, 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)