

# **PHI 103: Introduction to Philosophy**

Fall 2008, Section 02

M 6:00 - 8:40 pm

Location TBA

## **Instructor Information:**

Shawn E. Klein

sklein@rockford.edu

Office: Lang 114

Office Phone: 815-226-4115

Emergency Phone Number: 480-242-6947

Office Hours: MWF 12-1 pm; M 5-6pm; T 5-6pm; W: 2-3pm and by appt.

Class Website: <http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com/>

## **Course Description:**

Through a survey of major issues including free will, immortality, logic and reasoning, the existence of God, and ethics, students learn to examine theories critically and to think independently. PRQ: None. Credits: 3.00

## **Course Objectives:**

At the end of the semester, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the philosophical terms used.
2. Identify individual philosophers and their positions.
3. Explain these positions in one's own words.
4. Develop and defend one's own philosophical beliefs.

## **Textbook:**

PHI 103 Reader available from University Readers. See below for ordering instructions. Remaining readings available from class website.

## **Reader Ordering Instructions:**

Students order online at <http://www.universityreaders.com/students>

Follow these exact steps:

1. Click the "Create New Account" button (or enter your existing login information and skip to step 6)
2. Select your State from the dropdown menu.
3. Select your University from the resulting dropdown menu.
4. Enter the fields on the page such as a "login/password" you'd like to use and all applicable "address" info.
5. Click the "Save" button to create your account, and you'll automatically be taken to your university page.
6. At your university page, click the "Add to Cart" button to the right of the course pack you want to purchase.
7. Click on the "Checkout" button on the next page.
8. Review your address info and click on the "Continue" button on the next page.

9. Review our service agreement page and click the “I Agree – Continue Checkout” button on the next page.
10. Select shipping and payment preferences from the dropdown menus. Click the “Continue” button.
11. Enter payment details and click the “Place Order” button to finalize your order. The authorization will take about 5 -10 seconds. You’ll be prompted with an Invoice screen once your order has been authorized and completed. You will also receive confirmation via email regarding your order.

Please direct all ordering questions to [webmaster@universityreaders.com](mailto:webmaster@universityreaders.com) or call 800.200.3908.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Final grades are based on a 600-point system consisting of the following:

Participation & Attendance	50
Reading Focus Papers:	100
Class Focus Papers:	100
Mock Exam	50
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
<b>Total:</b>	<b>600 pts</b>

The grading scale is as follows:

555 - 600 pts.	93 - 100 %	A
537 - 554 pts	90 - 92 %	A-
519 - 536 pts	87 - 89 %	B+
501 - 518 pts.	84 - 86 %	B
477 - 500 pts	80 - 83 %	B-
465 - 476 pts	78 - 79 %	C+
441 - 464 pts.	74 - 77 %	C
417 - 440 pts.	70 - 73 %	C-
357 - 416 pts.	60 - 69 %	D
0 - 356 pts.	0 - 59 %	F

**Class Participation & Attendance:**

Class participation is an essential part of the philosophical process and classroom learning. Class participation includes taking part in class and group discussions as well as other in-class assignments. Out of class homework assignments may be included as part of the student’s class participation grade.

Students are expected to attend every class. Regular class attendance is necessary in order to understand the material in this class. Students should plan to attend all

classes and participate in discussions and class exercises. Absences begin to accumulate with the first scheduled class meeting. Tardiness or leaving early is not appreciated, and if happens often enough, it *will* affect your final grade.

Absences are only excused in the case of properly documented official absences, as defined by the College, and religious holidays. Instructor reserves the final determination on whether the absence is excused or not. Even if absence is excused, students still must complete all work missed and all work due.

If students miss a class, it is *their* responsibility to find out what work was missed. They should always get class notes from another student.

For any exams or quizzes given in class, there will be no make-ups (either prior to or after exam) for unexcused absences. Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up prior to next scheduled class. If you know ahead of time that you will miss an exam for an excused absence, you must arrange to take the exam before scheduled date.

For take home exams, exams will not be accepted late or by email, except by explicit permission. They must be turned in when class starts on the due date. In cases of emergency, contact me immediately. If you know you will miss the class on which the exam is due, please make arrangements with me to hand in the exam prior to the due date.

**Focus Papers:**

*Reading Focus Papers:* one-page (no more, no less) discussion of what you took to be the most important point(s) of the reading(s) due. You should not discuss your opinions or any biographical or historical information. You should not summarize the article. Some questions to help guide you: “What was the central issue? What was argued? How did the argument(s) go?”

*Class Focus Papers:* one-page (no more, no less) discussion of what you learned or found to be most important in the previous class. You should also note any remaining questions or concerns. We will have a break within each class; only one class paper for pre-break and one for post-break are accepted.

**Requirements:**

- One typed page, no more, no less,
- If you, nonetheless, exceed one page, pages must be stapled.
- Standard fonts (Times New Roman, Verdana, etc.),
- Standard font size (12 pt.),
- double-spaced,
- Standard margins (1” or 1.25” all around).

*No late papers will be accepted*; if you miss a class, you miss the paper. Class Focus Papers are accepted only at the next class meeting. Reading Focus Papers are accepted on the first day of discussing that reading up through the last day of its discussion. Papers will *only* be accepted in class. Papers will *not* be accepted by email without prior permission.

Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in no or partial credit for the papers. If you find you don't have enough to fill one page, you have not read the readings thoroughly. Papers that are too short will not be accepted and will not receive credit.

Each paper that meets these conditions will receive full credit for the assignment (10 pts each). These assignments make up a significant portion of your final grade, so failure to do them will severely hurt your grade. You must do a total of 10 Reading Focus papers and 10 Class Focus Papers. If you complete both sets of 10, up to 5 extra focus papers, of either type, will be accepted for extra credit.

See the attached Sample Paper for a guide on how your papers should look.

**Mock Exam:**

A Mock Exam will be given early in the semester. The purpose of the Mock Exam is to prepare a student for taking the full-credit exams. Full credit for the Mock Exam is earned by reasonably completing the Mock Exam regardless of accuracy of answers.

**Exams:**

There will three exams. Each will be a take home exam consisting of a mix of short answer and essay questions. The structure is open to change by the instructor based on class needs and the final composition of each exam will be explained in class when the exam is handed out.

Each of the exams will cover an instructor designated selection of material. Unless explicitly declared otherwise, students should expect any material covered in any reading, lecture, or discussion to be fair game for an exam question.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Students are expected to adhere, completely, to the Rockford College Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated under *any* circumstances. Please see the Student Code section of the Student Handbook (available from the Rockford College website: <http://www.rockford.edu/handbook/studentcodes.htm>) for a full explanation of plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.

If you are unsure if a situation falls under academic dishonesty or not, consult the instructor prior to doing the work.

**If you turn in a plagiarized paper, exam, or any other product of academic misconduct, this will result, at instructor's discretion, in a failing grade for the entire course, appropriate college authorities will be notified, and disciplinary procedures will be initiated.**

**Classroom Behavior:**

It is expected that all students will behave in a polite, respectable manner at all times, and that they will always be tolerant and civil towards their fellow students and instructor. Any other behavior at any time will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to remove a student if they fail to follow this policy.

**Dropping/Withdrawal:**

It is part of a student's academic responsibility to decide whether or not to drop or withdraw from a course once enrolled. If you find this course does not meet your needs or that you need to withdraw for some other reason, you must take the appropriate actions to drop or withdraw from the course. If you need to withdraw but are unable to come to campus, please contact me via telephone or email.

*Instructor will not drop any students for non-attendance.*

**Electronics:**

All cell-phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class times. See the instructor if there is a reason that you need such a device on.

It is permissible to use a laptop to take notes, but any internet connections must be turned off. This privilege will be suspended if the laptop is used for a purpose unrelated to classroom activities.

You must get instructor approval for recording of classroom activities.

**Statement of Accommodation:**

If you believe you are eligible to receive an academic accommodation, through such federal laws as the ADA, contact the Rockford College Disability Services Office, 815 226-4022.

**Course Schedule:**

Attached to this syllabus is the schedule for this course. Keep in mind that the schedule is tentative and open to change at the instructor's discretion.

**Addendums:**

- Confirmation form: This form must be signed and returned to instructor.
- Sample Focus Paper.
- Online Reading Guide

Student\_Name

Date\_Handed\_In

Reading Paper for [Title\_of\_Assigned\_Reading] or Class Paper for [Date\_of\_Class]

This is the text body for the sample focus paper. Your paper should look very much like this sample. You should follow a very simple structure. The first paragraph should introduce what you are focusing on. The middle paragraphs should develop this idea. The last paragraph should tie it together and conclude.

Remember, in your paper there shouldn't be any historical or biographical material unless it is relevant for the focus of your paper. Also, I am not looking for your personal review of the readings or class. Avoid puffery and superficial comments. You don't have a lot of space and so you need to focus, focus, and focus. What you should be doing is finding one point that you think is most important in either the reading or the class and tell me about that point.

You must make sure to proof-read your papers. Grammar and proper spelling are not just for English classes. They exist to help you make your points more clearly and avoid confusion. You shouldn't need to include quotes or do external research, I want to hear what you think is important and in your own words. But, in cases where you do provide a quote or make use of someone else's ideas, you must provide appropriate citation. Failure to do so is academic misconduct and you will be punished appropriately.

Online Readings  
PHI 103 Introduction to Philosophy

Rand, Ayn. "Philosophy: Who Needs It?"  
<http://gos.sbc.edu/r/rand.html>

Plato, "The Apology"  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

Plato, "The Republic"; selections from books 5, 6, 7 (specifics in class)  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>

Aquinas, Thomas. "Five Ways"  
<http://www-phil.tamu.edu/~gary/intro/paper.aquinas.html>

Paley, William. "Design Argument"  
<http://www-phil.tamu.edu/~gary/intro/paper.paley.html>

Aquinas, Thomas. "Faith and Reason" Chapters 3-8  
<http://www.diafrica.org/kenny/CDtexts/ContraGentiles1.htm>

Descartes, Rene. Meditations One, Two, and Three (sec. 1-4 only)  
<http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/index.htm>

de Laplace, Pierre Simon. *A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities*. Chapter Two, pages 3-6 (original). (Will be posted at class website:  
[www.whoneedsphilosophy.com](http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com))

\*You will need to print these out and bring to appropriate classes.

\*\*All of these links will be posted on class website:  
[www.whoneedsphilosophy.com](http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com)

## Majoring in Philosophy: Graduate School and Career Benefits

Socrates famously said “The unexamined life is not worth living.” We might update that to say “The *examined* life will make you a living.” Majoring in philosophy prepares you not just for a life of rational reflection, but for your career and professional life.

### *Graduate School Information:*

- LSAT (Law School Admission Test) is required for most laws schools.
  - Philosophy majors consistently score well, second only to physics/math majors, with an average score of 157.4 on the test, 5.2 points higher than the overall (weighted) mean.
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) is required for most graduate business programs, including MBAs.
  - Philosophy majors scored the fourth highest overall on the GMAT with a mean score of 580, trailing only the majors from physics, mathematics, and engineering.
- GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is required for many graduate programs.
  - According to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), philosophy majors rank first on the Verbal Reasoning and the Analytical Writing sections of the exam.

### *Careers and Professions:*

- Law
- Business/Management: from entrepreneurs and executives to marketing and public relations
- Government Service
- Clergy
- Publishing and Writing
- Medicine
- Journalism

### *A Few Notable Philosophy Majors:*

- Stephen Breyer and David Souter, Supreme Court Justices,
- Phil Jackson, NBA coach,
- Steve Martin, actor, author and comedian,
- Carl Icahn, billionaire financier,
- Carly Fiorina, former CEO, Hewlett Packard,
- Stone Philips, broadcaster
- Rudi Giuliani, former mayor of New York.

For more information, check out [www.whoneedsphilosophy.com](http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com)

Date	Topics	Readings	Exams
Monday, August 25, 2008	Introduction & Philosophy: Who Needs It?	Ayn Rand, Philosophy Who Needs it? (online)	
Monday, September 01, 2008	Labor Day: No Class		
Monday, September 08, 2008	Philosophy and the Examined Life	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (online)	
Monday, September 15, 2008	Natural Theology and the Arguments for God	Aquinas, "Five Ways"(online); William Paley "Design Argument" (online); Smith "The Teleological Argument" and "The Analogical Argument" (reader)	Mock Exam Handed Out
Monday, September 22, 2008	The Problem of Evil	Smith "God and Goodness", 76-87 (reader); Swineburne "Evil Does not show that there is no God" (reader)	Mock Exam Due
Monday, September 29, 2008	Reason and Faith	Smith "The Nature of the Conflict"(reader); Aquinas "Faith and Reason" (online)	Mock Exam Returned
Monday, October 06, 2008	Plato on Knowledge and Reality	Plato, Selections (The Divided Line: end of Book 6)(online); (The Cave: Book 7) (online); (Knowledge v. opinion: book 5) (online)	Exam One Handed Out
Monday, October 13, 2008	Descartes, Mediations	Mediation One, Two, Three (online)	Exam One Due
Monday, October 20, 2008	Realism	Searle, 20-30 (reader)	
Monday, October 27, 2008	Mind and consciousness	Searle, Chapter 4, (reader)	
Monday, November 03, 2008	Free Will and Determinism	Hard Determinism: la Place (online); Compatibilism: Stace (reader)	Exam 2 Handed Out
Monday, November 10, 2008		Branden: "The Objectivist Theory of Volition" Parts 1 and 2	Exam 2 Due
Monday, November 17, 2008	Issues in Morality	Pojman (reader)	
Monday, November 24, 2008		John Arthur (reader)	
Monday, December 01, 2008	Conclusions		Exam 3 Handed out
Monday, December 8, 2008	Exam 3 Due by 6 pm		

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and posted on [www.whoneedsphilosophy.com](http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com)

## Syllabus Confirmation Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I read and understand the course syllabus, in particular the policies regarding academic misconduct, for [class:]\_\_\_\_\_. I agree to bring any questions or concerns to the instructor immediately.

This form must be completed, separated from the syllabus, and returned to the instructor prior to the last day to drop class (Fall 2008: 9/5/08).

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_