PHILOSOPHY 1 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 2:00–3:30
PROF. KATE MORAN (kmoran@brandeis.edu)
OFFICE HOURS TBA

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course is an introduction to some of the main questions and arguments in western philosophy.

LEARNING GOALS
By the end of this course, students will be familiar with some of the major discussions in western philosophy. Students will have experience reading, analyzing, and discussing texts. Students will learn how to craft an argument, and how to critique an argument and engage in philosophical discussion. Students will have experience writing an argumentative essay/paper.

COURSE STRUCTURE
The course will be relatively fast-paced and will emphasize breadth over depth. We will aim to discuss a new topic every week. If you are interested in a particular topic, you should feel encouraged to keep reading that section of the textbook, or to ask me for further reading or course recommendations.

Class meetings will involve a good deal of lecture, and the assigned readings are intended to supplement, not replace, these lectures. Questions and discussion are encouraged, but I may sometimes need to cut discussions short to keep up with the syllabus.

EXPECTATIONS
I expect that you will come to class – success in this course is virtually impossible if you do not come to class. I also expect that you will have done the reading carefully (not just skimmed it), and the you will bring the relevant text(s) with you to class.

LAPTOPS, PHONES, ETC.
Unless you have a documented disability that requires you to use them, please do not use laptops, tablets, phones in class. They are not necessary in this course and are distracting.
EVALUATION

Five Abstracts (200–300 words) – 5% each. Students will choose five papers from those marked [A1] – [A10] and write an abstract for these papers. Students must choose two papers from [A1] – [A4] and three papers from [A5] – [A10]. These will be graded on a scale of 1–5. There will be a mini-lesson on writing an abstract on September 4.

Midterm Exam – 25%

Paper (5–6 pages) – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

TEXTS

Because this course is a late addition, we may have to wait for the textbook. In the meantime, readings will be available on LATTE.

The text for this course is Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings (eds. John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer). I refer to this text as "P,B,F" in the course schedule below. Page numbers refer to the 6th edition, and you can find many inexpensive copies of this text.

Other texts will be made available on the course LATTE page.

HOW TO READ PHILOSOPHY

Aim to read each reading twice before class, or once before class and once after class. I am always amazed at how much more I understand the second (or third, etc.) time I read a text.

COMMUNICATION

Please make sure that you check the email associated with your LATTE registration on a regular basis. This is how I will send messages about the class, including any messages about late starts or canceled classes.

DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see Prof. Moran immediately.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Never represent work or ideas that are not your own as your own. Always use proper citation techniques, even when you are not quoting another author directly. All instances of suspected academic dishonesty will be forwarded immediately to the Director of Academic Integrity.

CREDIT HOURS

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).
COURSE SCHEDULE

AUGUST 30:        COURSE INTRODUCTION/INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

SEPTEMBER 4:      WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?
                  Edmund L. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (P,B,F 133–135)
                  Mini-lesson on writing abstracts

SEPTEMBER 13 & 18: SKEPTICISM
                    René Descartes, First Meditation (P,B,F 136–138)
                    Hilary Putnam, "Brains in a Vat" (LATTE) [A1]

SEPTEMBER 20 & 27: THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM
                    Descartes, Second Meditation (P,B,F 138–142)
                    Gilbert Ryle, "Descrates’s Myth" (P,B,F 250 –257)[A2]

OCTOBER 2 & 4:     PERSONAL IDENTITY
                    Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (P,B,F 343–356) [A3]

OCTOBER 9 & 11:    FREEDOM AND DETERMINISM
                    Harry Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (P,B,F 430–439) [A4]

OCTOBER 16:       MIDTERM EXAM

OCTOBER 18:       MORAL LUCK
                    Thomas Nagel, "Moral Luck" (P,B,F 440–448) [A5]

OCTOBER 23 & 25:  UTILIATRIANISM
                    Bentham (Reading TBA)
                    J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism (P,B,F 460–476)
                    Peter Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality (P,B,F 495–503) [A6]
OCTOBER 29 AND NOV 1: KANTIAN ETHICS
Onora O’Neill, "The Dark Side of Human Rights" (Latte)[A7]

NOVEMBER 6 & 8: MORAL SAINTS?
Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints" (P,B,F 743–755) [A8]
Bernard Williams, "Utilitarianism and Integrity" (487–495) [A9]

NOVEMBER 13 & 15: JUSTICE

NOVEMBER 20: EXISTENTIALISM
Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (P,B,F 762–764) [A10]

NOVEMBER 27 & 29: LYING AND DECEPTION
Selections from Jennifer Saul, *Lying, Misleading, and What is Said* (TBA)
Selections from Harry Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* (TBA)

DECEMBER 4 & 6: CLASS CHOICE OR CATCH UP DAYS

DECEMBER 11: EXAM REVIEW

NOVEMBER 29: PAPER DUE

TBA: FINAL EXAM