PHILOSOPHY 1 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 3:30–4:50PM
PROF. KATE MORAN (kmoran@brandeis.edu)
OFFICE HOURS FRIDAYS, 10AM–12PM

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 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
2 Papers (3–4 pages each) – 25% each
Midterm Exam – 25%
Final Exam – 25%
Texts
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

JANUARY 11:  COURSE INTRODUCTION

JANUARY 16:  WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?
Edmund L. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (P,B,F 133–135)

JANUARY 23 & 25:  SKEPTICISM
René Descartes, First Meditation (P,B,F 136–138)
Hilary Putnam, "Brains in a Vat" (LATTE)

JANUARY 30 & FEBRUARY 1:  THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM
Descartes, Second Meditation (P,B,F 138–142)
Gilbert Ryle, "Descrates's Myth" (P,B,F 250 –257)

FEBRUARY 6 & 8:  PERSONAL IDENTITY
Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (P,B,F 343–356)

FEBRUARY 13 & 15:  FREEDOM AND DETERMINISM
Harry Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (P,B,F 430–439)

FEBRUARY 15:  FIRST PAPER DUE

FEBRUARY 20 & 22:  -- FEBRUARY BREAK --

FEBRUARY 27:  MORAL LUCK
Thomas Nagel, "Moral Luck" (P,B,F 440–448)

MARCH 1:  MIDTERM EXAM

MARCH 6 & 8:  UTILITARIANISM
J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism (P,B,F 460–476)
Peter Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality (P,B,F 495–503)

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March 13 & 15: Kantian Ethics
Onora O'Neill, "Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems" (P,B,F 538–544)

March 20 & 22: Moral Saints?
Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints" (P,B,F 743–755)
Bernard Williams, "Utilitarianism and Integrity" (487–495)

March 27 & 29: Justice

March 29: Second Paper Due

April 3 & 5: -- Passover Break --

April 10 & 12: Aesthetics
Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (LATTE)

April 17 & 19: Existentialism
Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (P,B,F 762–764)

April 24 & 26: Catch Up Days/Exam Review

TBA: Final Exam