

Topics and Readings

For your benefit, we will remain flexible about what we'll be reading and discussing and when. You are responsible for getting up-to-date information on what the current reading assignment is. The following is what I anticipate discussing this semester, but there may be some changes.

Introduction: Philosophical Method

Layman: A Logic Primer: Reason and Argument
May: How to Read Philosophy
May: Writing a Philosophical Paper
Plato: Euthyphro:

Epistemology:

Skepticism and the problem of knowledge

Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy (Meditations 1,2,3)
Gettier: Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?
Nagel: What is it like to be a bat?

Personal Identity:

How do we decide whether X is X.

Hobbes: "Ship of Theseus" Puzzle
Locke: Of Identity and Diversity
Reid: Of Mr. Locke's Account of our Personal Identity (The Brave Officer Objection)

The Problem of Evil and the Existence of God:

Is there a rational argument for belief in God.

Anselm/Descartes: Ontological Arguments
Kant: Response
Pascal: *Pensees* "Section III"
J.L Mackie: "Evil and Omnipotence"
Augustine: Privation
Leibniz: The best possible world

Ethics and Actions:

How can we decide what ought to be done.

Aristotle
Mill
Singer: *Famine, Affluence and Morality*
Judy Thomson's "A Defense of Abortion"