

**PHIL 101 – MAIN PROBLEMS:  
AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY  
TIME: T-TR - 8:00AM-9:15AM  
PLACE: MURPHEY – 115**

**Instructor:**

Felipe De Brigard  
Department of Philosophy  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill  
Caldwell Hall - Office 210D – Office hours: Th 9:30 – 12:00 or by appointment.  
Email: [brigard@email.unc.edu](mailto:brigard@email.unc.edu) – Web site: <http://www.unc.edu/~brigard/>

**About the Course:**

This class is intended to be an introduction to some of the central problems discussed in philosophy. It presupposes no previous knowledge of philosophy at all—although, as we will see, we all have some knowledge of these problems already. Given the vast amount of issues that have been discussed throughout the history of philosophy, we can only focus on a very limited number of problems. The class will orbit around the problem of the external world, the mind-body problem, the problem of God's existence, and some ethical problems, but we may have the chance to discuss some related problems as well.

**Grading:**

There will be three exams in this class: one short in-class test on February 5<sup>th</sup>, a mid-term on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and a final exam on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be also two papers: one 5-7 page paper due February 26<sup>th</sup>, and one 5-7 paper due April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Grades will be weighted as follows:

First exam:	10%
Mid-term:	20%
Final exam:	20%
First paper:	25%
Second Paper:	25%

Registered students are required to attend class. Attendance will be called randomly. If a registered student fails to attend to more than 10% of the classes (i.e. 3 or more sessions) with no excuse, s/he will receive an F as a final grade.

Remember: Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

The Honor Code and the Campus Code, embodying the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship, have for over 100 years governed the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University. Acceptance by a student of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in these codes and a respect for this most significant University tradition.

Your participation in this course comes with my expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. (You can learn more about it at <http://instrument.unc.edu>).

**Required Texts:**

Nagel, Thomas. 1987. *What Does It All Mean?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
 Descartes, Rene. 1993. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Hackett.  
 Hume, David. 1988. *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. Hackett.  
 Plato. 2001. *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Hackett.

**Schedule:**

Class	Date	Text
1	Jan. 10 (Th)	Introduction (Nagel: Introduction)
2	Jan. 15 (T)	Nagel, 2 – 3
3	Jan. 17(Th)	Nagel, 4 – 5
4	Jan. 22 (T)	Nagel, 6 – 7
5	Jan. 24 (Th)	Nagel, 8 – 10
6	Jan. 29 (T)	Descartes, I
7	Jan. 31 (Th)	Descartes, II
8	Feb. 5 (T)	Descartes, III – Short Exam (10%)
9	Feb. 7 (Th)	Descartes, III
10	Feb. 12 (T)	Descartes, IV
11	Feb. 14 (Th)	Descartes, V
12	Feb. 19 (T)	Descartes, VI
13	Feb. 21 (Th)	Descartes, VI
14	Feb. 26 (T)	Hume, 1 – First Paper (25%); 5 – 7 pages.
15	Feb. 28 (Th)	Hume, 2
16	Mar. 4 (T)	Hume, 3
17	Mar. 6 (Th)	Hume, 4
18	Mar. 18 (T)	Mid-term (20%)
19	Mar. 20 (Th)	NO CLASS
20	Mar. 25 (T)	Hume, 5
21	Mar. 27 (Th)	Hume, 6
22	Apr. 1 (T)	Hume, 7
23	Apr. 3 (Th)	Hume, 8
24	Apr. 8 (T)	Hume, 9
25	Apr. 10 (Th)	Hume, 10
26	Apr. 15 (T)	Hume, 11
27	Apr. 17 (Th)	Hume, 12
28	Apr. 22 (T)	Plato, Apology – Second Paper (25%); 5 – 7 pages.
29	Apr. 24 (Th)	Plato, Apology
30	May 1 (Th)	Final Exam (20%)