

## **Philosophy 232: Syllabus for Fall 07**

The readings are drawn from *Reason and Responsibility*, **13th edition**, edited by Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau. **This text is now available at Shaman Drum Bookstore.**

Note: The quantity of reading assigned varies widely from lecture to lecture; so be sure to check ahead in the text to plan your work week. The syllabus is subject to change and supplementation.

Tu. Sept. 4: Introductory meeting: no readings, but substantial content will be introduced in this first lecture).

### **I. God**

a) Rational Theology: two traditional arguments *for* the existence of God:

Th. Sept 6: William Paley: The Argument from Design

Tu. Sept. 11: The Ontological argument. Anselm, Guanilo, and Rowe

b) Two arguments *against* the existence of God:

Th. Sept 13: Are the divine attributes consistent? Is God possible? [No readings, though students will be responsible for the material presented in this class]

Tu. Sept 18: The Problem of Evil Posed: Dostoevsky and B. C. Johnson,

Th. Sept 20: The Problem of Evil Addressed: Richard Swinburne "Why God Allows Evil"

c) Pragmatic justifications of faith/miracles

Tu. Sept. 25: Clifford, Kelly James Clark.

Th. Sept 27: Pascal, Blackburn

### **II. Free will**

a) Hard Determinism

Tu. Oct. 2: Introduction, Holbach, Honderich

b) Soft Determinism

Th. Oct 4: A. J. Ayer and Walter T. Stace

c) Libertarianism

Tu. Oct 9: Chisolm

d) Free will and moral responsibility

Th. Oct 11: Frankfurt and Nagel

Tu. Oct 16: NO CLASS: FALL STUDY BREAK

### **III. Ethics: theory and applications**

a) Theory

Th. Oct 18: Joel Feinberg: Psychological Egoism

Tu: Oct 20th: James Rachels: Ethical Egoism

Th: Oct 25: Russ Shafer-Landau: Ethical Subjectivism

Tu: Oct 30: Immanuel Kant: The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative

Th: Nov 1: John Stuart Mill and Harris: The Survival Lottery

Tu: Nov 6: John Rawls: Justice as Fairness

b) Applications

Th: Nov 8: Peter Singer, Famine, Affluence and Morality and Onora O'Neill, Kantian Approaches to some Famine Problems

Tu: Nov 13: James Rachels, Active and Passive Euthanasia and Peter Singer, All Animals are equal

### **IV. Personal Identity**

Th: Nov 15: Locke: The Prince and the Cobbler and Reid, Of Mr Locke's Account of Personal Identity

Tu: Nov 20: Hume: The Self.

Th: Nov 22: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING

Tu: Nov 27: Parfit, Divided Minds and the Nature of Persons,

Th: Nov 29: Dennett, Where am I?

### **V. Human Knowledge**

Tu: Dec 4: Bertrand Russell

Th: Dec 6: Rene Descartes First and Second Meditations (pp. 166–173)

Tu: Dec 11: John Pollock: A Brain in a Vat.