**Philosophy 1000 - 005: Introduction to Philosophy**

Dr. Patrick Yarnell

**Office**: 4058 Columbine Hall **Email**: pyarnell@uccs.edu

**Office Hours**: M&W: 11:00 – 12:00 **Room**: COB 115

**Time**: M&W, 1:40 – 2:55 **Final Exam**: **Monday, May 13th, 12:40**

**Drop Date:** April 5th

**Text:** Bonjour & Baker (eds.), **Philosophical Problems**: An Annotated Anthology

**Philosophy Department Website**: <http://web.uccs.edu/philosophy/>

**Course Objectives**: That we develop and refine our perspectives on some of life's biggest concerns-- the nature of morality and justice, the existence of God, the nature and extent of our knowledge, and the core of our personal identities.

**Assignments**: Final grades will be determined by the student's performance on short answer mid-term and final exams (20% each), the precis assignment (20%), attendance (20%), and a writing intensive paper assignment (20%).

**Attendance Grading Criteria**: Absences are excused only when the student has a legitimate reason for missing, and he or she notifies me of the reason prior to the scheduled class. Habitually tardy students will be given one warning before their tardiness counts against their attendance grade.

 1 unexcused absence: A

 2 unexcused absences: B

 3 unexcused absences: C

 4 unexcused absences: D

**The Precis Assignment**: The student will be prompted to write short summaries of arguments/positions taken from the text. The summaries will be 1-2 typed pages in length. The student must be in attendance during discussion of the related material, and no late precis will be accepted without special permission. All summaries that roughly represent the author's perspective will receive full credit. Seriously confused summaries will not count towards the completion of the assignment. At least fifteen precis prompts will be offered during the semester.

 **Precis Grading Criteria**: 5 completed precis: A

 4 completed precis: B

 3 completed precis: C

 2 completed precis: D

**Cheating**: Students discovered cheating will receive an F on that particular assignment. A second such incident will result in an F for the course.

**Make-up Exams**: Make-up exams are allowed only when the following conditions are met: The student has a legitimate excuse for missing the exam, and the student informs me (if at all possible) prior to the scheduled exam that he/she will be absent. If, for some reason, the student is unable to contact me prior to the exam, I expect her to do so as soon as possible. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the student's receiving an F for the missed quiz.

**Special Needs**: Students with disabilities should promptly contact the Disability Services Office.

**Tentative Schedule**

(Assignments are subject to change depending on our progress.)

**AN INTRODUCTION**

Wk 1 A Bit of Logic

Wk 2 The Apology Plato, 26

**ETHICS & JUSTICE**

Wk 3 Cultural Ethical Relativism Rachels, 420

 Pojman's Objectivism

Wk 4 Utilitarianism Mill, 329

 The Experience Machine Nozick, 605

 Famine, Affluence, & Morality Singer, 348

Wk 5 Humanity as an End Kant, 353

 The Social Contract 1 Hobbes, 449

Wk 6 The Social Contract 2 Locke, 459

 The Social Contract 3 Rawls, 483

Wk 7 All Animals are Equal Singer (handout)

 A Man’s Right to Choose handout

Wk 8 Movie

Wk 9 A Defense of Abortion Thomson, 385

 …Moral & Legal Status of Abortion Warren (handout)

 Why Abortion is Immoral Marquis (handout)

**RELIGION & RESPONSIBILITY**

Wk 10The Argument from Design Paley, 527

 Gould, 534

 The Problem of Evil

**PERSONAL IDENTITY**

Wk 11 The Self and the Future Williams, 228

 Former Selves and Future Selves Parfit, 237

Wk 12 Movie

**ISSUES CONCERNING KNOWLEDGE**

Wk 13 Search for a Foundation Descartes, 46

Wk 14 The Problem of Induction Hume, 123

Wk 15 The Apriori and the Empirical Ewing, 142