Introduction to Philosophy
PI 225 B & C, 12:00/1:00 MWF

Fall 1998

Dr. Ted Toadvine, 411P Plumb Hall
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Office Hours: MW 2:00 - 3:00; T 2:00 - 4:00; and by appointment

The Death of Ivan Ilych, Leo Tolstoy (Signet).
Man’s Search for Meaning, Viktor Frankl (Simon & Schuster, 1984).

Course Goals & Topics
The main objective of this course is to introduce you to philosophical ways of thinking and train you to think and write critically about philosophical issues. In addition, the course will introduce you to a wide range of historical and contemporary perspectives on perennial philosophical questions: what is the nature of the self? What is the nature of reality? How can I know what is right? What is the nature of religious belief? Unlike courses which place emphasis on transmitting content to be memorized, this course invites you to reflect on the significance and meaning of your own life, and the role philosophical reflection may play in it. To fulfill this goal, we will conclude the course with literary and historical narratives concerned with the meaning of life in the contemporary world.

This course satisfies the General Education requirement in Literature and Ideas (Basic Skills VI) for certain majors.

Course Requirements and Grading
Your final grade will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 quizzes @ 5% each</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 short take-home essays @ 12.5% each</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>in-class Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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100%

The resulting percentage may be multiplied by .04 to determine your final grade in accordance with the plus/minus four-point grade scale (A=4, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3, etc. See p. 27 of the Undergraduate Catalogue for further information).

Quizzes, based on assigned readings and previous class discussions, will be unannounced. These brief, open-book quizzes at the beginning of class are to insure preparation for class discussion. Passing quizzes will require that you CAREFULLY read all assignments on time and attend class. Makeup quizzes will not be given for those who arrive late for class.

Short essays must be at least 600 words (about 2 pages on most word-processors), and will only be accepted if typewritten, double-spaced, proof-read, and stapled. These essays will be in response to a question distributed in class, and must be brought to class on the due date. On certain designated days, students will be selected at random to read their essays to the class. If you
do not have your essay on a day you are selected to read, your participation grade will suffer dramatically.

The Final Exam will consist of two in-class essays. These essays will be open-book, although they must be written during the scheduled exam time. Possible essay topics will be distributed in class prior to the exam, and the actual exam questions will be drawn from these topics. You will need to bring blue books with you for the final exam.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, the paraphrase or quotation of any published or unpublished source without full and clear acknowledgement. The university policy regarding academic dishonesty, as explained in the Student Handbook (p. 37), will be strictly enforced.

For help constructing your essays, please read the Appendix in Hallman, "Writing Philosophically" (665-684). Further assistance is available from the Writing Center, 345 Southeast Morse Hall. You can check the Writing Center hours or ask grammar and writing questions by calling the Grammar Hotline, 341-5380. If you anticipate trouble with your writing, please consult with the Writing Center or myself as soon as possible during the semester. Students having trouble with writing fundamentals may be required to seek assistance from the Writing Center as a condition for continuing in the course.

You will be expected to attend class, and to come prepared to discuss assigned material. Missing three classes will result in a full grade reduction. In the event of an absence when a quiz is given or an essay is due, you must notify me in advance of the absence or if there is an emergency as soon as possible after the emergency. If you miss because of an emergency, I expect you to document it. No make-ups or paper extensions will be given otherwise.

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations or emergency evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Office Hours**
As listed above, my office hours are Monday & Wednesday, 9:30 to 10:30, and Tuesday, 2:00 to 4:00. I will be spending these hours in my office for the sole purpose of being available for your questions. If these times are not convenient for you, and there is something you need to discuss with me, please ask to make an appointment. Messages can be left with the Social Sciences secretary (PH 411) at 341-5462. You are also welcome to address inquiries to me via email at toadvint@emporia.edu.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

| WEEK 1: | Introduction to course: requirements, syllabus, mystery game |
| 8/24 - 8/28 | "Introduction," Hallman (xvii-xxiii) |
| | Problems of Self and Identity (1-4) |
| | Selections from Upanishads and Buddhist scriptures (4-13) |

| WEEK 2: | Self Identity |
| 8/31 - 9/4 | Selections from Hume, Schopenhauer, & Borges (13-24) |
WEEK 3: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (Monday, 9/7)
9/7 - 9/11 ESSAY 1 READING DAY (Wednesday, 9/9)
   Mind vs. Body
   Selection from Plato (24-38)

WEEK 4: Dualism and Beyond
9/14 - 9/18 Selections from Descartes, Spelman, Ryle, & Parfit (38-72)

WEEK 5: Self-Determination and Society
9/21 - 9/25 Selections from Sartre, Mead, Beauvoir, and Zack (85 - 115)

WEEK 6: ESSAY 2 READING DAY (Monday, 9/28)
9/28 - 10/2 Introduction to Ethics (293-7)
   Selections from Aristotle, Mencius, and Kant (297-317)

WEEK 7: Ethics Continued
10/5 - 10/9 Selections from Bentham, Radhakrishnan, and Schweitzer (325-341)

WEEK 8: Questioning Traditional Values
10/12 - 10/16 Selections from Jain scriptures, Eagle Man, Leopold, Gilligan, Daly (349-383).

WEEK 9: ESSAY 3 READING DAY (Monday, 10/19)
10/19 - 10/23 Introduction to Religion (539-542)
   Selections from Augustine, Black Elk, and Kierkegaard (543-562)

WEEK 10: The Value of Religion Today
10/26 - 10/30 Selections from Buber, Gutiérrez, and Starhawk (562-595)

WEEK 11: Evaluating Traditional Christianity
11/2 - 11/6 Selections from Campbell (596-602), Whitehead (613-622), and Lin (644-651)

WEEK 12: Concluding Discussion of Religion
11/9 - 11/13 VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY (Wedns, 11/11)
   ESSAY 4 READING DAY (Friday, 11/13)

WEEK 13: The Crisis of Meaning in Modern Life
11/16 - 11/20 The Death of Ivan Ilych, Tolstoy

WEEK 14: Begin "Experiences in a Concentration Camp," Frankl (17-100)

WEEK 15: The Will to Meaning
   finish "Experiences...," Frankl
   "Logotherapy in a Nutshell," Frankl (103-136)

WEEK 16: Can Life Today be Meaningful?
12/7 - 12/11 "The Case for a Tragic Optimism," Frankl (139-154)

FINALS: Section B (12:00) -- 12/17, 8:00 - 9:50
   Section C (1:00) -- 12/16, 1:00 - 2:50