Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 1999

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Summer Office Hours: by appointment

Texts
- Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilych* (Bantam, 1981)
- Plato, *Euthyphro, Crito, Apology, Symposium* (Gateway, 1953)
- Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (Hackett, 1992)
- Susan Faludi, *Backlash* (Doubleday, 1991)
- Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael* (Bantam, 1992)

Course Goals & Topics
This course will 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. In this summer session, we will be especially concerned with the issues of self-awareness, the meaningfulness of life, the causes of inequality, and the role of oppression in contemporary society. Unlike courses which place emphasis on transmitting content to be memorized, this course will emphasize the important role of philosophical reflection in responding to significant issues which confront our society and you.

For certain majors, this course satisfies the General Education requirement in Literature and Ideas (Basic Skills VI).

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

- 5 quizzes @ 3% each = 15%
- 2 short take-home essays @ 30% each = 60%
- Final examination = 25%

Quizzes, based on assigned readings and previous class discussions, will be unannounced. Passing these brief, open-book quizzes will require that you CAREFULLY read all assignments on time and attend class. No makeup quizzes will be given for those who are absent or late for class without a documented excuse.

Short essays must be at least 600 words (about 2 pages on most word-processors), and a word count must appear on the first page of your essay. Essays will only be accepted if typewritten, double-spaced, stapled, and proof-read. These essays will be in response to a question distributed in class, and must be brought to class on the due date. On these 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 essay grade will suffer dramatically.

The cumulative final, given on the last day of class, will include an “objective” (true/false, multiple choice, and/or short answer) component and an essay component.

You are expected to attend class and to come prepared to discuss assigned material. Due to the limited amount of class time during the summer, missing more than a single class FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction. Missing four or more classes will result in an automatic failure of the course.
Assistance in writing essays is available from the Writing Center, 345 Southeast Morse Hall (341-5380). If you anticipate trouble with your writing, please consult with the Writing Center or myself as soon as possible during the course. Students having trouble with writing fundamentals will be required to seek assistance from the writing center as a condition for continuing in the course.

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.

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

Office Hours
While I do not have regular office hours during the summer, I will be happy to schedule a convenient time to meet with you. 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.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1
Monday, 6/7: Introduction to Course, Reading Exercise, Mystery Game
Tuesday, 6/8: The Death of Ivan Ilyich, Chapters 1-7
Wednesday, 6/9: Ivan Ilyich, Chapters 8-12; Euthyphro
Thursday, 6/10: Apology, Crito

WEEK 2
Monday, 6/14: 1st essay due and paper reading; Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Preface & Part I (1-44)
Tuesday, 6/15: Discourse, Part II (44-71)
Wednesday, 6/16: The Communist Manifesto
Thursday, 6/17: Backlash, Chapters 1 & 2 (ix-45)

WEEK 3
Monday, 6/21: 2nd essay due and paper reading; Backlash, Chapter 3 (46-72)
Tuesday, 6/22: Ishmael, 3-91
Wednesday, 6/23: Ishmael, 95-184
Thursday, 6/24: Ishmael, 187-263; Final Exam