Indv 101: Philosophical Perspectives on the Individual
Sections 28-39, 50-55
Lecture Mon/Wed 10:00-10:50
S SCI 100

Instructor: Shaun Nichols
Office: Social Sciences 318c
Phone: 626-0616
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30, and by appointment
sns@email.arizona.edu

Course website: http://dingo.sbs.arizona.edu/~snichols/courses/indv101.htm (also in pdf)

Course Description: In this course, we will consider several traditional philosophical problems that still have considerable contemporary significance. We'll focus on problems that threaten fundamental beliefs about ourselves and our knowledge of the world. We'll consider whether knowledge is possible, whether we can act freely and responsibly, and whether the mind simply is the brain. We will also explore what would be required for the self to survive death, what reason there is to think that God exists, and whether morality is only relative to one's perspective.

Readings: There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be available on the web, either on ERES, or linked through this syllabus.

If you prefer to have a textbook, many of the readings can be found in any of the following books:
John Perry, Michael Bratman, & John Fischer, Introduction to Philosophy (Oxford, 2006)

Requirements & Grading:
3 essays exams (including final): 30% each
Essay exam 1: September 24th
Essay exam 2: October 29th
Final exam (essay): December 12th, 11:00AM-1:00PM
Weekly quizzes (given in discussion sections): 10%

Course policies:
"You need a good excuse, in advance, to miss an exam. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored. Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in disciplinary procedures leading to severe penalties. See the UA Policy on Threatening Behavior by Students, and documents referenced therein." Code of Conduct
If you believe that a mistake has been made in the grading of one of your exams, you must put your reasons for thinking so in writing and then submit them to Professor Nichols within one week from the time the examination was returned in class. It is not sufficient simply to state that you feel a mistake has been made. Rather, you must write up a detailed statement of your reasons (depending on the grading mistake) and submit it to Professor Nichols.

Students with Disabilities
"Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations in this course are encouraged to register with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center. Students with special needs who are registered with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center are reminded that they must submit appropriate documentation as soon as possible if they are requesting special accommodations." For more information contact the Disability Resource Center (621-3268).

TAs:

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Office hours: MW 12-1:30

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I. Reason and Religious Belief
August 20: Introduction

August 22:
William L. Rowe, "The Cosmological Argument" from Philosophy of Religion (Wadsworth 2000) (ereserve)

August 27:

August 29:
Pascal, "The Wager", #233

II. Epistemology
Sept 5:
René Descartes, Meditations On First Philosophy, I

Sept 10:
Descartes, Meditations On First Philosophy, II, III
Sept 12:  
John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book II, chapter VII*

Sept 17:  
George Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* (starting at "I frankly own")

Sept 19:  
Berkeley cont’d

Sept 24:  
Exam  
[David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Section IV (esp. part II)*]

III. The Mind-Body Problem  
*Mental states*  
Sept 26:  
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* II, VI

Oct 1:  
Descartes’ Dualism, continued

Oct 3:  
Churchland, from *Matter & Consciousness* (MIT, 1988) on Behaviorism, Materialism, and Functionalism, chap. 2, pp. 23-42 (ereserve)

Oct 8:  
Churchland, from *Matter & Consciousness* (MIT, 1988) on Behaviorism, Materialism, and Functionalism, chap. 2, pp. 23-42 (ereserve)

Oct 10:  
Materialism  
*Consciousness*  
Oct 15:  
Frank Jackson "Epiphenomenal Qualia" *Philosophical Quarterly*, 32 (1982), pp. 127-36 (ereserve)

Oct 17:  
Jackson cont’d  
IV. Personal Identity
Oct 22:
Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity" also here

Oct 24:
Reid, "Of Identity"; "Of Mr Locke’s Account"
Hume, "Of Personal Identity"

Oct 29:
Exam

Oct 31:

V. Free Will
Nov 14:
Baron Holbach, System of Nature Chapter XI, Of the system of man’s free agency (complete book here)
LaPlace, from A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities

Nov 19:
David Hume, Liberty and Necessity, VIII

Nov 21:
C. A. Campbell, "Has the Self 'Free Will'?"

VI. Metaethics
Nov 26:
Relativism: Richard Brandt, from Ethical Theory (ereserve)

Nov 28:
Subjectivism: Rachels, J. "Subjectivism in Ethics" (ereserve)

Dec 3:
Nihilism: Mackie, Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong, chapter 1 (ereserve)

Dec 5:
Realism: Michael Smith, "Moral Realism" 399-410 (ereserve)