

## **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

sbn @ em ail. 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:

Stephen Cahn, *Philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Oxford 2002).

Joel Feinberg & Russ Shafer-Landau, *Reason and Responsibility: Readings in Some Basic Problems of Philosophy* (Wadworth 2004).

John Perry, Michael Bratman, & John Fischer, *Introduction to Philosophy* (Oxford, 2006)

### **Requirements & Grading:**

3 essays exams (including final): 30% each

Essay exam 1: September 24<sup>th</sup>

Essay exam 2: October 29<sup>th</sup>

Final exam (essay): December 12<sup>th</sup>, 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*

<http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/cai1.html>

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:

##### Brian Fiala

Email: brian.fiala.teaching [insert symbol] gmail.com

Office: 138 SSB Office Phone: (520) 621-7098

Office hours: M 11-12, Th 12-2

##### Adam Arico

Email: Adam.Arico [insert symbol] gmail.com

Office: 138 SSB Office Phone: (520) 621-7098

Office Hours: W TH 3:30-5:00

##### Rex Hubbard

Email: carlrexh [insert symbol] email.arizona.edu

Office: 138 SSB Office Phone: (520) 621-7098

Office Hours: M 2:30-3:30, F 9-11AM

##### Theresa Lopez

Email: tlopez [insert symbol] email.arizona.edu

Office: 138 SSB Office Phone: (520) 621-7098

Office Hours: T 10:30-12, W 1:30-3

##### Christian Loew

Email: chloew [insert symbol] email.arizona.edu

Office: 138 SSB Office Phone: (520) 621-7098

Office hours: M 11-1PM, W 11-12

##### Daniel R. Sanderman

Email: dsandermta [insert symbol] gmail.com

Office 213 SSB      Office phone: (520) 621-7098.  
Office hours: MW 12-1:30

<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
28	10-10:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 310	Arico
29	11-11:50	<a href="#">M LNG</a> 405	Arico
30	12-12:50	<a href="#">M LNG</a> 203	Arico
31	10-10:50	<a href="#">OPTI</a> 432	Fiala
32	11-11:50	<a href="#">OPTI</a> 422	Fiala
33	12-12:50	<a href="#">OPTI</a> 432	Fiala
34	10-10:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 320	Lopez
35	11-11:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 320	Lopez
36	12-12:50	<a href="#">CE</a> 310	Lopez
37	10-10:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 441A	Loew
38	11-11:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 441A	Loew
39	12-12:50	<a href="#">BIO W</a> 237	Loew
50	11-11:50	<a href="#">ENGR</a> 308	Sanderman
51	12-12:50	<a href="#">EDUC</a> 441A	Sanderman
52	1-1:50	<a href="#">M LNG</a> 205	Sanderman
53	11-11:50	<a href="#">AME</a> S336	Hubbard
54	12-12:50	<a href="#">C CTR</a> 309	Hubbard
55	1-1:50	<a href="#">C CTR</a> 309	Hubbard

## **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:

Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*, (1927): 33-42 (ereserve)

Plantinga, *Warranted Christian Belief*, (Oxford, 2000): 192-98 (ereserve)

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 VIII\*](#)

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:

Churchland, "Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes" *Journal of Philosophy* (1981) 78: 67-90. (ereserve)

Frank Jackson "Epiphenomenal Qualia" *Philosophical Quarterly*, 32 (1982), pp. 127-36 (ereserve)

Oct 17:

Jackson cont'd

McGinn, C. (1989), "Can we solve the mind-body problem?", *Mind*, 98, 349-366. (ereserve)

#### **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:

Williams, (1970) "The Self and the Future" *Philosophical Review* 79 (2): 161-180  
(ereserve)

Parfit, "Divided Minds and the Nature of Persons" in Blakemore and Greenfield  
*Mindwaves* (1987): 19-28. (ereserve)

#### **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)