Instructor: Heather Demarest  
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Course: Intro to Philosophy, PHIL-1013, MWF, 9:30-10:20am(!), Dale Hall 128
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:30-12:00, Dale Tower 622

This class will provide an introduction to the central and novel ideas in philosophical theories of the self. Who are we? What is our place in the cosmos? Can we act freely? Can we define ourselves? Students should be prepared to think for themselves and to question their assumptions. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated, as true philosophical inquiry requires open and supportive discussion.

- Plagiarism: Work that is not properly cited will receive a zero. If you have any questions about plagiarism, ask!  
http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

- I will do my best to accommodate all students. If you have a particular concern, first contact the Disability Resource Center, if applicable, then contact me by email or visit during office hours.  
https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html

- No late work will be accepted.

Required Materials:
- Rachels & Rachels: Problems from Philosophy
- iclicker

Grading
- Daily Quizzes 30%
- Six Papers 60%
- Class Participation 10%

The daily quizzes will test reading comprehension, as well as the material covered in class. The five lowest quiz scores will be dropped. You are encouraged to use these "freebies" for days when you are sick or otherwise unable to make it to class on time. If you have to miss more than five days due to an extended illness (or other excused reason), contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss a plan for making up the missed work.

If you would like feedback on your papers, you must submit a draft (via D2L) no later than one week prior to the due date. All papers must be submitted via D2L. You will be provided with paper prompts and instructions.

Class participation includes asking questions, answering questions, and actively participating in group discussions.
Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Knowledge (1/12 – 1/16)
• M: Wot?
• W: Skepticism
  o Descartes: *Meditations I & II*
  o Rachels & Rachels: 10.1
• F: Skepticism [No Class]
  o Watch *The Thirteenth Floor*
  o (Also fun/relevant: *The Matrix* and *Inception*)

Week 2: Knowledge (1/19 – 1/23)
• M: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day [No Class]
  o Think about what Martin Luther King, Jr. did for his beliefs.
• TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *Thirteenth Floor*
• W: Skepticism
  o Nick Bostrom: “Are We in a Simulation?”
  o Hilary Putnam: “Brains in Vats”
• F: Emotion
  o Alison Jaggar: “Love and Knowledge”

Week 3: Knowledge (1/26 – 1/30)
• M: Implicit Bias
  o Sendhil Mullainathan: Racial Bias
• TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (Also fun/relevant: *Memento*, *Inception*, and *50 First Dates*)
• W: Knowledge and Memories [Other Instructor]
  o False Memories: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_memory
• F: Knowledge and Memories [No Class]
  o Watch *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

**PAPER #1 DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd BY MIDNIGHT**

Week 4: Personal Identity (2/2 – 2/6)
• M: Identity Over Time: Theories
  o Rachels & Rachels: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3
• TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: *The Prestige* (Also fun/relevant: *Freaky Friday* and *How to Live Forever*)
• W: Identity Over Time: Fission
  o Derek Parfit: “Personal Identity”
• F: Identity Over Time [No Class]
  o Watch *The Prestige*
Week 5: Personal Identity (2/9 – 2/13)

- M: Identity Over Time: Living Forever [Other Instructor]
  - David Lewis: “Survival and Identity” ("Death Wish” ST-Voyager 25:00)
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: It’s a Boy Girl Thing
  (Also fun/relevant: Legally Blonde, Virtual Sexuality)
- W: Narrative Identity:
  - Marya Schechtman: “The Characterization Question”
- F: Gender and Racial Identity
  - Anthony Appiah: "But Would That Still Be Me?"
  - Sally Haslanger: “Gender and Race”

PAPER #2 DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th BY MIDNIGHT

Week 6: Consciousness (2/16 – 2/20)

- M: Dualism
  - Rachels and Rachels: “Descartes and Elizabeth” 6.1
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: I Robot
  (Also fun/relevant: Blade Runner, Battlestar Galactica, Caprica, and Waking Life)
- W: Critiques of Dualism
  - Patricia Churchland: “Substance Dualism”
- F: Consciousness and Computers
  - Rachels & Rachels: Chapter 7 “Could a Machine Think?”

Week 7: Free Will (2/23 – 2/27)

- M: Physical Determinism
  - Rachels & Rachels: 9.1
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: Minority Report
  (Also fun/relevant: 12 Monkeys and Groundhog Day)
- W: Libertarian Free Will
  - Rachels & Rachels: 9.2
- F: Compatibilism
  - Rachels & Rachels: 9.3

PAPER #3 DUE MONDAY, MARCH 2nd BY MIDNIGHT

Week 8: Free Will (3/2 – 3/6)

- M: Psychological Determinism
  - Rachels & Rachels: 8.1, 8.2
- TUESDAY MOVIE NIGHT, 8pm, Adams FIR apt, room 105: Gattaca
- W: Social Science Experiments
  - Rachels & Rachels: 8.3
- F: Character and Genes
  - Rachels & Rachels: 8.4
Week 9: Time (3/9 – 3/13)

- **M:** Time
  - Ted Sider: “Time”
- **W:** Relativity
  - Watch: *Train and Tunnel Paradox*:
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wteiuxyqtoM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wteiuxyqtoM)
  - Watch: *Neil deGrasse Tyson explain how gravity affects time*:
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRw6ox3dGcA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRw6ox3dGcA)
  - Optional: watch *Interstellar*
- **F:** Time Travel
  - David Lewis: “The Paradoxes of Time Travel”

**SPRING BREAK!**

Week 10: God (3/23 – 3/27)

- **M:** Design Argument
  - Rachels & Rachels: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
- **W:** Ontological Argument
  - Rachels & Rachels: 2.4, 2.5
  - Optional: watch *Contact*
- **F:** Problem of Evil
  - Rachels & Rachels: Chapter 3

**PAPER #4 DUE MONDAY, MARCH 30th BY MIDNIGHT**

Week 11: Ethics (3/30 – 4/3)

- **M:** Why Be Moral?
  - Plato: *The Ring of Gyges*
  - Rachels & Rachels: 12.1 “The Ring of Gyges”
  - Optional: watch *The Seventh Seal*
- **W:** Religious Ethics
  - Plato: *Euthyphro*
  - Rachels & Rachels: 12.2 “Ethics and Religion”
- **F:** Religious Ethics
  - No Readings
Week 12: Ethics (4/6 – 4/10)
- M: Virtue Ethics
  - Aristotle: *Nichomachean Ethics*
- W: Deontological Ethics
  - Immanuel Kant: *Groundwork on the Metaphysics of Morals*
  - Christine Korsgaard: “The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil”
- F: Consequentialism
  - John Stuart Mill: *Utilitarianism*

**PAPER #5 DUE MONDAY, APRIL 13th BY MIDNIGHT**

- M: Animals
  - Jonathan Safran Foer: Selections from *Eating Animals*
- W: Global Poverty
  - Peter Singer: “The Shallow Pond”
  - Peter Singer: “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
- F: Radical Ethics
  - “Earning to Give”
  - Interview with Ethan Hughes

Week 14: Political Philosophy (4/20 – 4/24)
- Designing Society
  - John Rawls: *A Theory of Justice*
- Social Justice
  - Mary Rowe: “Micro-Affirmations and Micro-Iniquities”
- Racism
  - Kwame Anthony Appiah: “Racisms”

**PAPER #6 DUE MONDAY, APRIL 27th BY MIDNIGHT**

Week 15: Meaning of Life and the Purpose of Philosophy (4/27 – 5/1)
- M: Meaning
- W: The Value of Philosophy
  - Bertrand Russell: “The Value of Philosophy”
- F: How is my life different and how is it going to be different?
Writing an excellent philosophy paper requires

1. Thesis
   a. This is what you are arguing for.
   b. This is your main claim.

2. Argument
   a. This is the reason your thesis is true.
   b. This is the reason why you think your main claim is true.
   c. This is what justifies your thesis.
   d. This is why other people should believe your thesis.

3. Example
   a. Are there any real examples that make your argument and thesis more compelling?
   b. Are there any thought experiments that you can think of that make your argument and thesis more compelling?

4. Potential Objections
   a. After hearing your argument, why would others disbelieve your main claim?
   b. Could someone disagree with the logic of your reasoning?
   c. Could someone disagree with your assumptions?

5. Replies
   a. Why would those objections fail?

Paper Topics:

1. Give an example of something that you believed until very recently. Was your old reason for belief reasonable? Why or why not? Is your new reason for belief reasonable? Why or why not?
   a. Thesis: What makes for a reasonable belief?
   b. Argument: Why?
   c. Example: What did you used to believe and why did you change your belief?
   d. Clarity / Grammar: Use the writing center, your roommate, etc.!
   e. Interesting: Do you choose an interesting/deep/important example?
   f. Compelling: Is your reasoning and argument persuasive?

2. Is the possibility of ‘duplication’ a problem for your preferred theory of personal identity over time? If so, explain why. If not, explain why not. Would you feel confident traveling by teleporter?
   a. Thesis: Duplication is (is not) a counterexample to ______ theory of personal identity.
   b. Argument: Why? (Why not?)
   c. Example: Describe the example of the teleporter.
   d. Clarity / Grammar: Use the writing center, your roommate, etc.!
   e. Accuracy: Do you correctly describe the theory and duplication?
   f. Compelling: Is your reasoning and argument persuasive?