Fall, 2013

Self, Identity, and Free Will: 3503

Heather Demarest

Room: Dale Hall 112
Office: Dale Hall Tower 622
Day/Time: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:00-1:15
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30

Official Policies

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](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, then contact me by email or visit during office hours. [https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html](https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html)

Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This is a place to learn and share ideas, and that requires an open, supportive atmosphere for everyone.

No late work will be accepted.

**Required:** Clicker
**Required Text:** John Perry: *Personal Identity*
**Recommended Text:** Marya Schechtman: *The Constitution of Selves*
**Recommended Text:** Jenann Ismael: *The Situated Self*

**Grading**

- 30 Daily Quizzes or Daily Notes (1 page) 1pt each 30%
- 4 Short Papers (2 pages) 10 pts each 40%
- 2 Long Papers (7-10 pages) 15 pts each 30%

The daily quizzes should be easy for anyone who has read the assigned readings carefully. You may skip the quiz by handing in at least one full page of notes on the assigned reading at the beginning of class. Notes will be returned after the quiz. The five lowest quiz scores will be replaced by perfect scores. You are encouraged to use these “freebies” for days when you are sick or otherwise unable to make it to class on time.

All papers must be submitted via Desire2Learn by midnight on the day they are due. If you submit your papers one week early, I will give you feedback, along with the grade that paper would receive as a final version. If you are unhappy with it, you may incorporate my feedback and hand it in again on (or before) the due date.
Self, Identity, and Free Will: 3503

Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/20/13</td>
<td>Introduction to and Overview of Personal Identity</td>
<td>10/15/13 18 Short Paper #3 Due</td>
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<td>10/24/13 21 Drop with ‘W’ (25th)</td>
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<td>11/7/13 25</td>
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<td>11/19/13 30 Short Paper #4 Due</td>
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<td>10/10/13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12/5/13 34 Long Paper #2 Due</td>
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Readings

Introduction to and Overview of Personal Identity:

2. Kirstie Morrison: “Self” [12]

Soul Theory of Personal Identity:


Memory Theory of Personal Identity:

10. Joseph Butler (PI: Chapter 5) [18]
Self, Identity, and Free Will: 3503

Fall, 2013

Heather Demarest

11. Thomas Reid (PI: Chapters 6-7) [20]

Bundle Theory of Personal Identity:
13. David Hume (PI: Chapters 10-12) [18]

Psychological Continuity Theory of Personal Identity:
16. Sidney Shoemaker (PI: Chapter 16) [22]
17. Derek Parfit (PI: Chapter 14) [16]

Human Animal Theory of Personal Identity:

Performative Theory of Personal Identity:
22. Jonardon Ganeri: *The Concealed Art of the Soul* [8]

Characterization of Identity:
24. Marya Schechtman: *The Constitution of Selves*, pp. 73-78, 94-99 (P) [21]

Importance of Identity:
Self, Identity, and Free Will: 3503

Fall, 2013

Heather Demarest


Unity of the Self:


33. Thomas Nagel: (PI: Chapter 15) [18]

34. Jenann Ismael: *The Situated Self* pp. 222-228 [9]

Paper Guidelines

Short papers: Pick a topic that we have covered which you find interesting (souls and their memories, the possibility of reincarnation, etc.). Identify a main claim within that topic (souls cannot remember anything, reincarnation requires something other than the body to persist, etc.). Think about whether the claim is true or false and why. Then, think about how a reasonable person might disagree with you and why. Finally, think about what you could say in response to that person. Your paper should:

1. Clearly state the claim and whether you think it’s right or wrong.

2. Describe the main claim in detail, using a clear example and perhaps a quotation from one of the authors we have read.

3. Give at least one *reason* or *argument* for believing the main claim. Make sure you go into enough detail to be persuasive.

4. Give at least one reason for doubting the above reason (objection).

5. Respond to this doubt (reply).

6. Cite everything (arguments, quotations, etc.) that is not your own.

7. Use a uniform citation format. When it doubt, use MLA, APA, or Chicago.

Long papers: Same as the short ones, except that you must give at least three different reasons for a main claim, including an objection and reply for each.

Be proactive in becoming a great writer! Trade paper drafts with each other, ask your roommates/parents/pets/partners/children for feedback, and visit the writing center. The ability to express yourself clearly is crucial and writing is one of the skills that will serve you well in almost any career.
References


