

Seminar for Philosophy Majors

Handout # 1

Contact Information: My office is Hall of Languages 430. My email is: sgcas@syr.edu. Office hours will be explained in class. The Philosophy Office is HL 541; the Department phone is 443 - 2245.

Comportment: I expect you not to do these: Failing to follow instructions in this or any other handout; talking with others or being disruptive or inattentive in class; being disrespectful of any classmate; giving phony excuses for anything, ever; not doing the assigned readings or other work *on time*; not seeking help when you need it.

Electronics: I do not allow cell phones in class. They must be off and out of sight. Taking notes on a laptop may be allowed *with prior permission*, but no use of a laptop for anything unrelated to the course is acceptable.

Required Readings: All required readings will be distributed in class. You will not need to buy anything.

Course Content: We will start with a focus on some issues about which I have written. After that, what we consider will be based on your individual interests within philosophy. Because this is a small and diverse group of students, we will tailor the course content to reflect your preferences. That will require considerable dialogue among us. Each of you will be expected to participate actively in that dialogue in each class session.

Writing Assignments: Assignments must be completed when due except under extreme conditions. Only a death in the family, a documented serious illness, or something similar will justify late submission. Work that is late without justification gets a lowered grade. Requests for extensions must be made in advance, unless you can document inability to use email or a phone (e.g., a storm has disabled communications). Papers should be crafted with care and printed, single-sided, in 12 point font, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Make every word count. When a paper has multiple pages, those (after p.1) must be numbered and stapled (not clipped). Use no folders or covers. Keep a copy of every paper until receiving your final course grade.

First Writing Assignment: Due *Thursday, January 18*: Write a short essay (500 - 700 words) in which you do all and only these four things:

- (1) Complete this sentence: I know that — X —.
- (2) Provide a justification of *your claim to know* — X —.
- (3) Write the best objections you can think of to what you have said in (2).
- (4) Defend what is in (2) against the objections in (3).

If you have any questions about this assignment, send me an email.

Important Dates: The last class will be on April 25. The final exam has not yet been scheduled. When it is, the exam date and time are not negotiable.

Help: Students who need disability-related accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, (315) 443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to me and review the accommodations with me. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodation as early as possible is necessary. For more information, see: <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>.

If you need to miss class for **religious observance**, you will be entitled to makeup opportunities only if you provide notice by February 6. You must do so via MySlice.

Academic Integrity: The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Serious sanctions can result from any academic dishonesty. For more information and the complete policy, see the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures on the University's website at:

<http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/uploads/docs/SU%20AI%20Policies%20Procedures.pdf>

Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work.

[The following statement is based on one developed by Prof. Kevan Edwards (SU Philosophy) which is derived from one developed by Professor Stephen Stich (Rutgers, Philosophy).]

"At Syracuse University, academic integrity is expected of every community member in all endeavors. Academic integrity includes a commitment to the values of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect. These values are essential to the overall success of an academic society. In addition, each member of the University community has a right to expect adherence to academic integrity from all other community members.

An individual's academic dishonesty threatens and undermines the central mission of the University. It is unfair to other community members who do not cheat, because it devalues efforts to learn, to teach, and to conduct research. Academic dishonesty interferes with moral and intellectual development, and poisons the atmosphere of open and trusting intellectual discourse."

<http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/academic-integrity-policy/> Here are several important reminders about plagiarism:

- Plagiarism includes working with another person and not citing that person's contribution.
 - Plagiarism includes using material that you have found on the internet without citing the source.
 - Plagiarism includes borrowing ideas and treating them as your own, even when these ideas are expressed in your own words.
 - It is almost always easy to avoid plagiarism simply by citing your sources. If you are worried that something you have written could be construed as plagiarism, you should err on the side of caution and indicate the source in a footnote.
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- If you have any questions, ask. ***No question is inappropriate.***

Now reread this Handout if you have not already done so.