

PHI 107-M005: Theories of Knowledge and Reality, Fall 2021

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Office hours: I am happy to meet with you, either in person or over Zoom. I am not planning on scheduling office hours at a particular time, because I am divided between three campuses this semester. Just send me an email or a Blackboard message, and we can schedule a time.

Official Course Description: An introduction to some major questions about knowledge and reality, such as the existence of God, the mind-body problem, free will and the nature and limits of knowledge. Historical and contemporary readings.

Textbooks: There are three required textbooks, and we are also going to be using some online readings, which will be posted in Blackboard. The textbooks are:

1. Jay Rosenberg, Three Conversations on Knowing (Hackett)
2. Gregory Ganssle, Thinking About God (InterVarsity)
3. John Perry, A Dialogue Concerning Personal Identity and Immortality (Hackett)

The bookstore should have these, but the second is not showing. They are looking into that.

Meeting Times: This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Maxwell 108 from 3:30-4:50 pm. There will be no Zoom option, and I am not recording class sessions for anyone who misses.

Pandemic-related issues: As of the start of the fall semester, everyone must have a mask on in any classroom at any time. Masks are recommended indoors for fully vaccinated students but required before you step into the classroom. Your mask must cover your mouth and your nose. You may step out of the classroom to take a quick drink or eat something if you need to do so. No food or drink can be consumed in the classroom, and no one may remove their mask in the classroom. If you need to leave, please do so without disrupting the class. It is possible that mask requirements will be eased as the semester goes on. It is also entirely possible that at some point in the semester we will go remote for everyone. Be prepared for that possibility. Decisions on those issues will be made by the university based on conditions on campus and in this region more generally.

Grading Policy:

Component	Percentage of Grade
1. Short Essays	30%
2. Papers	45%
3. Attendance and Participation	15%
4. Quizzes	10%

Grading Scale

92.1-100 = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89.9 = B+	82.1-87.9 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79.9 = C+	72.1-77.9 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69.9 = D+	62.1-67.9 = D	60-62 = D-
0-59.9 = F		

Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice.

Disability-Related Accommodations:

If you believe that you need academic adjustments (accommodations) for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), visit the ODS website–

<http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>

located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 or TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting academic adjustments. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related academic adjustments and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since academic adjustments may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.