

**Philosophy H101: Introduction to Philosophy**  
Winter 2011

**General information**

Instructor: Ben Caplan  
Time: M W 12:30 – 2:18 PM  
Location: officially, Kuhn Honors & Scholars House 201; but really—at least temporarily—University Hall 347  
Office: 337F University Hall  
Office hours: T R 2:30 – 3:18 PM, or by appointment  
Phone: 292.2479  
Email: caplan.16@osu.edu  
Webpage: <<http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/caplan16/101.htm>>

**Course description**

We will get a sense of what philosophy is by doing some. We will consider the following three topics: (i) the existence of God, (ii) the relation between mind and body, and (iii) personal identity. Throughout, we will be concerned with presenting and evaluating arguments for, or against, various views.

**Required text**

Earl Conee and Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics* (Oxford: Clarendon, 2005).

Other readings will be provided electronically through Carmen (which is not the course webpage).

**Course requirements**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| First assignment  | 20% |
| Second assignment | 20% |
| Third assignment  | 30% |
| Fourth assignment | 30% |

You will have at least a week to complete each assignment. You may rewrite any assignment before the end of the quarter, **provided that you hand it in with a copy of my comments on the previous version.**

**Disabilities**

Students who might need accommodations are encouraged to contact me and the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

## **Academic misconduct**

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. You are expected to know what counts as academic misconduct. You are also expected not to commit it. Among other things, your work must be your own, and you must cite all of your sources. If I suspect that you have committed academic misconduct, I am required to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM), which may impose punishments that range from failure to suspension and expulsion.

Academic misconduct is defined in Section 3335-23-04 of the *Code of Student Conduct*, which you are expected to be familiar with. Ignorance of the *Code of Student Conduct* is no excuse for academic misconduct.

The *Code of Student Conduct* is available here:

<[http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc\\_12-31-07.pdf](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf)>.

Information on the Committee on Academic Misconduct is available here:

<<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>>.

## **GEC requirement**

This course satisfies the Breadth—Arts and Humanities—Culture and Ideas (2(C)(3)) requirement.

Goals: Students evaluate significant writing and works of art. Such studies develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected Learning Outcomes: (1) Students develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and expression; and (2) students develop abilities to understand how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

In this course, students develop their abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and to understand ideas about the nature of reality—including God, mind, and the self—both through sustained discussion and through reflective engagement with *The Prestige* (2006).

## **Outline**

A detailed and updated outline will be posted on the course webpage (which is not Carmen).