

# *Introduction to Philosophy*

Philosophy 103

Dr. Stephen Hicks

Scarborough 119 Phone: 815 226 4078

[SHicks@Rockford.edu](mailto:SHicks@Rockford.edu)

[Website: www.StephenHicks.org](http://www.StephenHicks.org)

Philosophy deals with the big questions of human existence: What is it to be a fully developed human being? What kind of world are we living in—for example, does a God exist? What difference does it make—what is the best kind of life to live? And how do we know and decide these things? We will grapple with fundamental philosophical problems and discuss the views of major thinkers in the Western intellectual tradition.

## Books

René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett)

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (W. W. Norton)

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (HarperCollins)

Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates* (Cornell)

Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead* (NAL/Signet)

Stephen Hicks, editor, *Readings in Philosophy*. Available online at <http://www.stephenhicks.org>

## Assignments and Grading

Test on Rand, Plato, and Galileo (Thursday, March 3) .....	20%
Test on Descartes and Lewis (Thursday, April 7) .....	20
Essay (Thursday, April 14) .....	20
Participation .....	10
Final Exam (Monday, May 9, 8 a.m.) .....	<u>30</u>
	100%

## On the Essay

**Topic:** What is independence? [More information to come.]

**Length:** 1,500 words

**Due:** Monday, March 1, 9:30 a.m.

**Note:** Center for Ethics and Entrepreneurship prizes for the best essays in Philosophy 103: \$300 for First Place. \$100 each for two Honorable Mentions.

## Recommended Supplemental Reading

James Fieser, editor. *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Edward N. Zalta, editor. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

# Schedule and Readings

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1 (Jan 18)	What philosophy is and why it matters	
2 (Jan 25)	Howard Roark and Peter Keating Independence of mind: Asch's and Milgram's experiments No class January 27: Read, read, read!	Rand, <i>The Fountainhead</i> , Part 1
3 (Feb 1)	Gail Wynand and Dominique Francon Independence and integrity in action	Rand, <i>The Fountainhead</i> , Parts 2 and 3
4 (Feb 8)	The trial of Socrates Greek virtue: justice, courage, wisdom, piety (or temperance)	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
5 (Feb 15)	Socrates and civil disobedience Individuals, communities, and the state	Plato, <i>Crito</i>
6 (Feb 22)	Philosophy, religion and science in the Renaissance and the Reformation	Galileo, <i>Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina</i> [SH reader]
7 (Mar 1)	Philosophy, religion and science in the Renaissance and the Reformation Thursday, March 3: First test on Rand, Socrates, and Galileo	Galileo, <i>Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina</i> [SH reader]
8 (Mar 8)	Spring Break	
8 (Mar 15)	René Descartes: The challenge of skepticism	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> I-II
9 (Mar 22)	Descartes: Can God's existence be proven?	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> III
10 (Mar 29)	C. S. Lewis and the religious philosophical tradition	Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Book 1
11 (Apr 5)	C. S. Lewis and the religious philosophical tradition Thursday, April 7: Second test on Descartes and Lewis	Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> , Book 3

- 12 No class Tuesday, April 12
- (Apr 12) Essay due Thursday, April 14
- 13 Sigmund Freud on religion and psychology Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Chapters 1 to 3
- (Apr 19)
- 14 Freud on human nature and its challenge for civilization Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Chapters 4 and 5
- (Apr 26)
- 15 What is the meaning of life?
- (May 3 )
- 16 Final exam on Monday, May 9 at 8 a.m.  
(Yikes!)
- (May 9)

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A copy of the syllabus and schedule can be found online at <http://www.StephenHicks.org>.

For Honor Code and Disability issues, consult the College's website.