

# Problems of Philosophy

## Recitation Syllabus for Writing Sections

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This document supplements the main course syllabus. Policies and expectations are slightly different for writing sections. Note that where this document is silent, the main syllabus applies, and where the main syllabus differs from what is written here, this document applies. Please ask if you have any questions!

Classmates: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_

### Recitation Objectives

The primary purpose of recitations is to provide a forum for the activity of philosophy. You will have the opportunity to engage with the material of the course more actively, and more collaboratively, than is possible during the lectures. Writing sections also have a further purpose—they provide instruction in the art of philosophical writing. A key component of this is revising work in response to criticism (see ‘Additional Course Requirements’ below). The course presupposes the mastery of basic composition skills; here we focus on *philosophical* writing. Writing sections meet twice as often as non-writing sections.

**Attendance at recitation is required.** Participation credit for the course will directly reflect attendance at recitations. If you think you will have to miss a recitation for any reason, please contact me as early as possible.

### Additional Course Requirements

In addition to the main course requirements, students in writing sections are also expected to complete:

- Brief reading responses throughout the course.
- A revision of each paper, due one week after initial submissions have been graded and returned. Both the original submission and the revision will contribute to the grade for each paper, approximately 50% each.

## Assignments and Grades

Because this is a writing section, the grade structure will be slightly different than for the main course:

- Attendance, Participation, and Reading Responses: 15%
- First Paper (4-5pp.): 20%
- Midterm: 15%
- Second Paper (4-5pp.): 30%
- Final exam: 20%

## Writing schedule (subject to revision)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Topic:
January 1st						<i>Introduction</i>
8th						<i>The Mind/ Body Problem</i>
15th						
22nd						
29th				<b>PAPER 1 ASSIGNED</b>		
February 5th						<i>Free Will</i>
12th	<b>PAPER 1 DUE</b>					
19th						
26th	<b>REVISION 1 DUE</b>			<b>IN-CLASS MIDTERM</b>		
March 5th	----- <i>Spring Break</i> -----					
12th						<i>Personal Identity and Survival</i>
19th						
26th		<b>PAPER 2 ASSIGNED</b>				
April 2nd					<b>PAPER 2 DUE</b>	
9th						<i>Death</i>
16th					<b>REVISION 2 DUE</b>	
23rd				<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<i>Review</i>

## Reading Responses

Reading responses (starting in week 3) are due at the latest by 10pm Sunday night. You are encouraged to submit a response earlier than this, whenever an idea in the reading strikes you. As the semester progresses there will be opportunities for you to give feedback on the reading responses of other students.

## Office Hours

Office hours can be used to talk over assignments, reading, or class performance, or for more freewheeling discussion about the material in the course. Email should be used for short factual or logistical questions. Email may also be used to ask philosophical questions, but in general a proper discussion will require face time during office hours. **Please allow at least 24 hours for me to reply before sending a follow-up email.**

## Cell Phones / Laptops

To ensure a productive environment for everyone, please silence your phones and do not use them during recitation. **Laptops should also not be used in recitation except if necessary.** If you have a specific reason why you feel you need to use a laptop, please discuss this with me.

## Food and Drink

Any drinks other than water must be in containers with lids, and except on very special occasions food is not generally permitted during recitations. So please arrive well fed and dispose of any food or put it in your bag or stomach beforehand.

## Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity (see link below). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity (<http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>).