**Philosophy 1301A**

**Mind, World & Knowledge**

**Dr. Kenneth Ferguson: Summer 2022**

**List of Topics and Readings**

**(Please note that minor revisions might still be made)**

**I. Introduction: The Nature of Philosophy**

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| **Reading 1**: Manuel Velasquez, Philosophy: A Text with Readings, 12th edition, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, Chapter 1, Section 1, What Is Philosophy?, pp. 1-12, available online at: <https://view.publitas.com/p222-13032/philosophy-a-text-with-readings-velasquez-manuel-srg/page/36-37>  |

**II. Background**

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| **Reading 2:** Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text with Readings*, 12th edition … Chapter 6, Section 1. “Knowledge as Justified True Belief”, pp. 421-425**Reading 3 (optional):** “An Outline of theCopernican Revolution BBC”,online at: (to get this reading Google title) |

**III. René Descartes: Scepticism and the Possibility of Knowledge**

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| **Reading 4 (Brightspace):** René Descartes, *Meditations* 1 & 2, translated by John Cottingham (posted on Brightspace) **Reading 5 (online):** “Cartesian Scepticism”, available at <http://www.princeton.edu/~grosen/puc/phi203/descrartes.html>**Reading 6 (online):** Manuel Velasquez … Chapter 5. The Sources of Knowledge … “Descartes: Doubt and Reason”, p. 346 – p. 350**Reading 7:** G.E. Moore, “Proof of an External World,” online at: <http://fitelson.org/proseminar/moore_poaew.pdf> **Reading 8 (optional online):** Bertrand Russell, Chapter 2, “The Existence of Matter” from *The Problems of Philosophy* (Just Google “*The Problems of Philosophy*”) online at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5827/5827-h/5827-h.htm>  |

**III. John Locke’s Empiricism: The Origin of Ideas**

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| **Reading 9:** Manuel Velasquez … Chapter 5. Section 3. “Can the Senses Account for all of our Knowledge?”**Reading 10 (online):** Peter Markie, “Rationalism Versus Empiricism”, Section 4, The Innate Concept Thesis, *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rationalism-empiricism/#4> **Reading 11:** Michael Lacewing, “Primary and Secondary Qualities”, Posted on Brightspace**Reading 12 (on Brightspace):** Noam Chomsky, “On Language”, available at: <http://www.answers.com/topic/language-chomsky-s-theory>**Reading 13 (online):** “Chomsky’s Universal Grammar” from the website: *The Brain from Top to Bottom*, sponsored by McGill University, available at<http://thebrain.mcgill.ca/flash/capsules/outil_rouge06.html> |

**IV. David Hume on the Nature of Causality**

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| **Reading 14 (online):** Michael Lacewing, “Hume on Causation”, Google author and title, or you can go to: <http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/alevelphilosophy/data/A2/Hume/HumeFreeWill.pdf>**Reading 15 (online):** Manuel Velasquez … Chapter 5.3, “Hume and Scepticism”, p. 368 –76 |

**V. Immanuel Kant: Does the Knowing Mind Shape the World?**

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| **Reading 16:** Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text with Readings*, Chapter 5, “The Sources of Knowledge”, Section 5.4, “Kant: Does the Knowing Mind Shape the World?”, pp. 376-84. **Reading 17:** Tom Kearns, “Introduction to Immanuel Kant”, posted online, available at: <https://philosophycourse.info/lecsite/lec-kant.html>**Reading 18:** Ralph Blumeneau, “Kant and the Thing In Itself”, from *Philosophy Now*, August/September 2016, at: <https://philosophynow.org/issues/31/Kant_and_the_Thing_in_Itself> |

**VI. Cosmology: Can We Explain the Universe as a Whole?**

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| **Reading 19 (Online):** Richard Taylor, “The Cosmological Argument”, from *Metaphysics*, by Richard Taylor, available online at: <https://iweb.langara.bc.ca/rjohns/files/2013/01/taylor_cosmological.pdf>**Reading 20 (online):** Ron Rosenbaum, “Has the Meaning of Nothing Changed?” from the website [www.slate.com](http://www.slate.com) (to view article Google title)**Reading 21 (Optional online):** Review of “A Universe from Nothing”, by physicist Lawrence Krause”, by David Albert, March 23, 2012, NY Times, online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/25/books/review/a-universe-from-nothing-by-lawrence-m-krauss.html> |

**VII. The Relationship between Science and Religion**

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| **Reading 22:** Manuel Velasquez … Chapter 4: Philosophy and God, section 4.1. “The Significance of Religion pp. 262-266**Reading 23 (online): “**The Nature of Science”, American Association for the Advancement of Science, available at: <http://www.project2061.org/publications/sfaa/online/chap1.htm>**Reading 24 (online):** Stephen Jay Gould, “Nonoverlapping Magisteria”, available at: <http://www.stephenjaygould.org/library/gould_noma.html> **Reading 25 (online):** Richard Dawkins, “The Improbability of God”, available at: <https://richarddawkins.net/2014/06/the-improbability-of-god/> (To get this reading, just Google author and title)**Reading 26 (optional online):** Tim Crane, “Mystery and Evidence”, posted on Brightspace |

**VIII. The Nature of Minds and Their Relation to the Physical World**

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| **Reading 27:** Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text With Readings* (Toronto, Wadsworth publishers, 2005) Chapter 2, "How Do Mind and Body Relate?" pp. 104-118, available online at: <https://view.publitas.com/p222-13032/philosophy-a-text-with-readings-velasquez-manuel-srg/page/106-107> **Reading 28:** Rene Descartes, *The Meditations* (Meditation VI only) **Reading 29 (online):** *Website: The Mind Project* – (to get this, Just Google “The Mind Project”) Read the following modules: Functionalism: An Introduction; The Turing Test; Artificial Intelligence: Can a Machine Think?; and “Searle and the Chinese Room Argument”.**Reading 30:** Thomas Sturm, Consciousness Regained: Philosophical Arguments for and against Reductive Physicalism, online at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3341650/> **Reading 31:** Susan Blackmore, *Consciousness: An Introduction*, Chapter 2 “What is it Like to be …?” (Oxford: Oxford University press, 2012) pp. 19-31**Reading 32 (optional, online):** Susan Blackmore, “The Grand Illusion: Why Consciousness Exists Only When You Look For It” (originally published in New Scientist, June 22, 2002) available online at: <http://www.susanblackmore.co.uk/journalism/ns02.htm>**Reading 33 (online)**: David Chalmers, “The Puzzle of Conscious Experience”, in *Scientific American*, 2002, available at: <http://consc.net/papers/puzzle.pdf>  |

**IX. What Can We Know About Alien Minds?**

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| **Reading 34 (online):** Daniel Dennett, “Daniel Dennett Explores Darwinism and Outer Space”, video from Big Think, available at: <http://bigthink.com/videos/daniel-dennett-explores-darwinism-and-outer-space>**Reading 35 (online):** Craig Delancey, “Will Aliens be Alien?”, taken from the website ClarkesWorld, award winning science fiction and fantasy magazine, Issue 88, January, 2014, available at: <http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/another_word_01_14/>**Reading 36 (online):** Jayarava Raves, “Why Artificial Intelligences Will Never Be Like Us and Aliens Will Be Just Like Us”, June 27, 2014, available at: <http://jayarava.blogspot.ca/2014/06/why-artificial-intelligences-will-never.html>**Reading 37 (optional online):** Peter Godfrey-Smith, “The Mind of an Octopus”, from the publication *Scientific American*, available online at: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-mind-of-an-octopus/>**Reading 38 (optional online):** Murray Shanahan, “Conscious Exotoca: From algorithms to aliens, could humans ever understand minds that are radically unlike our own?”, from the website *Aeon*, available at: <https://aeon.co/essays/beyond-humans-what-other-kinds-of-minds-might-be-out-there>  |

**XI. What Are Persons and How Do We Track Their Identity Across Time?**

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| **Reading 39:** Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text With Readings* 11th edition (Boston, Wadsworth publishers, 2011) Chapter 2.4: “Is There an Enduring Self? ”, and “Are we Independent and Self-Sufficient beings?”, pp.88-107, available online at: <https://view.publitas.com/p222-13032/philosophy-a-text-with-readings-velasquez-manuel-srg/page/106-107> **Reading 40 (online):** David Anderson, “What is a Person?”, from the website *The Mind Project*, at: <https://mind.ilstu.edu/curriculum/what_is_a_person/what_is_a_person.html> **Reading 41 (optional online):** Daniel Dennett, “The Self as the Narrative Center of Gravity”, <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic565657.files/9/Dennett%20self%20as%20center%20of%20gravity.pdf> **Reading 42: (optional online):** Eric Olson, “Personal Identity”, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/identity-personal/> |

**XI. Free Will and Determinism**

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| **Reading 43:** “Determinism and Free will in Science and Philosophy”, by C.J.M. Hewitt, 2006, from the website *The Great Debate*, online at: <http://www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/determinismandfreewill.html> **Reading 44:** Richard Taylor, “ Freedom and Determinism”, online at: <http://jwood.faculty.unlv.edu/unlv/Articles/TaylorFreeWill.PDF> **Reading 45 (online):** Patricia Churchland, “The Big Questions: Do We Have Free Will?”, in the New Scientist Magazine, November, 2006, available at: <http://web.missouri.edu/~segerti/1050H/docs/churchlandFreeWill.pdf>**Reading (optional) 46:** Daniel Dennett, “Reflections on Free Will”, online at: <https://samharris.org/reflections-on-free-will/>  |

**XII. Epistemological Relativism and Constructivism**

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| **Reading 47 (online):** Chris Swoyer, “The Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, available at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/relativism/supplement2.html>**Reading 48 (online):** “Epistemological Relativism”, University of Reading (Anonymous)(To get this article, Google the title and Reading.)**Reading 49 (online):** Paul Boghossian, “ What Is Social Construction?”, available online at:<http://philosophy.fas.nyu.edu/docs/IO/1153/socialconstruction.pdf> |

**XIII. Truth and Meaning**

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| **Reading 50 (online):** Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* … Chapter XII, “Truth and Falsehood”, at: <http://www.ditext.com/russell/rus12.html> **Reading 51:** Manuel Velasquez … Chapter 6, section 2. What is Truth?”, pp. 426-446**Reading 52 (online)**: “Truth”, Norman Swartz, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2018, sections 1, 3, 4, and 5available at: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/truth/#H3> |