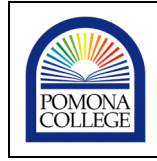


PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 001, S2
Wed night, 7–9:50 p.m.
Pearsons 203



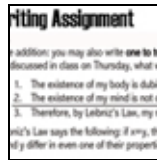
PETER KUNG

Department of Philosophy
Pearsons 201B
Mon 2:30–3:30 & Tues 2–4
peter.kung@pomona.edu

SAKAI

We use it. All registered 5C students should already be able to log in. Readings are available through Sakai, and you will submit responses and papers through Sakai. Make sure you have access.

<http://sakai.claremont.edu>



ASSIGNMENTS

“Weekly” reading responses (15%).

You must complete **all** the following to get credit for the course:

1. In-class midterm (25%)
2. Paper (30%)
3. Final exam or term paper (your choice) (30%)

WRITING

Everyone needs outside feedback on their writing. *Everyone*. I'll show you one of my recent “finished” papers that my colleague *savaged* with incisive, constructive suggestions and lots and lots of deletions. I have to be nice to my colleagues to get them to give me feedback. Fortunately for you, you can simply go to **The Writing Center** (Pomona's is on the 2nd floor of Smith Campus Center, above the Coop Fountain; ever college has one), which offers free, one-on-one consultations at any stage of the writing process—from generating a thesis and structuring an argument to fine-tuning a draft. Consultations available by appointment, which you can make online:

<http://writing.pomona.edu/writingcenter>

For some of you this will be your first experience with philosophical writing. We will discuss what I expect in your writing; for a preview, see:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>



Class participation influences borderline grades. You'd be surprised how often grades wind up in the border region...



FINE PRINT

Lateness is bad, very bad, and so is penalized **one point** (on Pomona's weird 12-point scale) **per day late**.

Extenuating circumstances should be serious enough to require attention from a doctor, your adviser, or your College's dean.

You are expected to abide by the code of conduct of your college, and we'll be discussing the application of these codes to specific assignments as they approach. In brief, any work that is submitted as your own but written in whole or in part by someone else is plagiarism. Just for the record: violation of the honesty code results in an F for the course and is subject to further disciplinary action.

No early final exams. Make your travel plans accordingly.

WEEK 1 & 2

Is disagreement reasonable?

Feldman, "Reasonable religious disagreements"

Pronin, Gilovich, & Ross, (2004).
"Objectivity in the eye of the beholder:
Divergent perceptions of bias in self versus others"

Elga, "Lucky to be rational"



WEEKS 2 & 3

Different question about skepticism

Grau, "Dream skepticism" and "Brains in vats and the evil demon"

Bostrom, "Are you living in a computer simulation?"

Grau, "The value of reality: Cypher & the experience machine"

Vasilioiu, "Reality, what matters, and *The Matrix*"

IN-CLASS MIDTERM, SEP 24

WEEKS 4 & 5

Can we change the past, or anything else for that matter?

screening, *12 Monkeys* (dir. Gilliam)

McTaggart, "The unreality of time"

Lewis, "The paradoxes of time travel"

Hume, *Enquiry* §8, "Of liberty and necessity"

Van Inwagen, "The incompatibility of free will and determinism"



WEEK 6

Moral obligation to help?

Singer, "Famine, affluence, and morality"

Cohen, "Who is starving whom?"

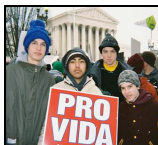
Kagan, "The additive fallacy"

WEEK 7

What if the fetus is a person?

Thomson, "A defense of abortion"

More TBA



WEEK 8

Your morality, not mine

American Anthropological Association, "Statement on human rights"

Bernard Williams, from *Morality*

Waldron, "How to argue for a universal claim"

PAPER DUE, TUE OCT 28

WEEKS 9 & 10

What is a person?

Screening *Memento* (dir. Nolan)

Dennett, "Where am I?"

Locke, *Essay* II.27 "Of identity and diversity"

More TBA



WEEK 11

There can be miracles...?

Hume, *Enquiry* §10, "Of Miracles"

C.S. Lewis, from *Miracles*

Earman, from *Hume's Abject Failure*

More TBA

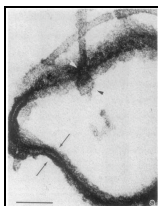
WEEK 12

Evidence of a designer

Dembski, "The logical underpinnings of intelligent design"

White, "Does origins of life research rest on a mistake?"

White, "Fine-tuning and multiple universes"



WEEK 13

Can we settle philosophical questions with experiments?

Haidt, "The emotional dog and its rational tail"

Nado (**Pomona '04!**), Kelly & Stich, "Moral judgment"

Appiah, "The new new philosophy"