

PHI 150 Introduction to Philosophy

150H 001 TR 10:50-12:05 Room: HR 101
150 005 MWF 11:00-11:50 Room: LA 207
Spring 2010

Web site: <http://www.rudygarns.com/class/150/>

PHI 150 is a general introductory course in philosophy. The topics we discuss will center largely on the topic of human nature and specifically on questions of knowledge, mind, the self, free will, and morality. The course is divided into three sections. (1) Nature versus Nurture; (2) Descartes, Mind and Knowledge; and (3) Self, Free Will and Morality. Exploring both historical and contemporary philosophical theories, we'll contrast a Cartesian or rationalist perspective with the naturalist or empiricist approach. We will explore all these questions using film, class discussion, and primary texts in philosophy.

Professor: Rudy Garns
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The primary objective in this course is that you become familiar with some specific areas of philosophical concern, with some of the questions that philosophers find important, and with the methods they use to approach these questions. You should see not only what philosophy is, but how one does philosophy. You should come to appreciate the import, the direction, and the challenge of philosophical thinking. Specific course objectives are listed for each section of the course.

Your progress in the class will be evaluated primarily on the basis of a series of short essay exams and response papers. Anyone not meeting all the requirements will fail the course.

- Attendance
- Participation and Preparation
- Three Exams
- Response Papers