

Introduction to Philosophy
Professor: Reid Blackman
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Office hours: Hascall 206, Monday 4-7

Required Texts

Many readings will be distributed via email.

Matter and Consciousness: A Contemporary Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind, by Paul M. Churchland

A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will, by Robert Kane

Outlines: Lectures come with outlines for each article. You should not come to class without them. They will be posted on blackboard; you are responsible for printing them and bringing them to class.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates

Response papers: Response papers are, at a maximum, one-page papers. There will be three throughout the semester. If you fail to hand in a response paper, or it is very bad (i.e. very poorly written, given little thought), it will count as -1 to your *final* average. If the paper is very good it will count as +1 to your final average. All other response papers have no bearing on your final grade.

- **Topic for response paper #1:** Do you believe in God? Why or why not?
- **Topic for response paper #2:** What is the mind/soul? Is it distinct from the body? Could it survive your death? Could we create a machine with a mind/soul?
- **Topic for response paper #3:** What is it to have free will? Do we have it? How might someone fail to have it?

Big Papers: There are **three big papers**, each of which is worth 1/3 of your final grade. Each paper is to be 3-4 pages long. Each paper will have as its primary goal responses to your own response papers, and should involve discussion of (some) arguments we have covered in class.

Paper 1, 3-4 pages, 20%

Paper 2, 3-4 pages, 30 %

Paper 3, 4-5 pages, 30 %

Class participation: 20%

Due dates for papers will be determined as the semester proceeds.

Papers are to be double spaced in Times New Roman size 12. Don't mess with the margins; I'll know.

Requests for extensions should be made at least 2 days prior to the paper's due date.

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. You should also be in contact with Lynn Waldman, Director of Academic Support and Disability Services at 315-228-7375 in the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research. She reviews documentation to determine and help coordinate reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with any kind of disability or special need.