

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH

Winter 2021

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Corey Dethier	(corey.dethier@philos.uni-hannover.de)
<b>Class:</b>	Th 12:00-14:00	(B410)
<b>Office hours:</b>	by appointment	

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**Course Description:** This course provides students with an English-language introduction to philosophy with a particular focus on developing and practicing skill of communicating philosophical ideas in English. No prior philosophical experience in English is assumed; readings will (mostly) be focused on contemporary discussions of free speech, personal identity, and ethical issues in medicine and public health.

## Course Aims:

- To develop the ability to critically engage with philosophy in English.
- To develop an understanding of the questions asked by contemporary philosophers and the methods employed in answering those questions
- To provide a foundation of reading, writing, and communication skills appropriate both for higher-level philosophical work in English.
- To demonstrate the relevance of philosophy of various contemporary issues.
- To encourage a life-long appreciation for philosophical investigation.

**Texts:** Most readings will be uploaded as PDFs to the Stud.IP website for the course; the exceptions are all online materials, and a link will be provided for these.

## Grades & Assignments:

Normal coursework (Studienleistung): students who wish only to pass the course must turn in reading responses for 75% of the classes and write a short paper (approx. 4-5 pages) on one the subjects discussed in the class. This short paper is due on 27.01.2022.

Graded / with examination (Prüfungsleistung): students aiming for a grade in the course must write a longer term paper in addition to the normal coursework requirements. This longer paper should be approx. 15 pages, should address one of the topics discussed in the class, and should engage with philosophical literature other than that discussed in the course of the class. The term paper is due 15.03.2022.

Reading response prompts as well as rubrics for both papers can be found at Stud.IP.

**Course policies:** I expect students to (a) be respectful of their fellow students, (b) turn their assignments in on time, and (c) behave ethically both in class and in fulfilling their assignments. I also encourage all students to feel free to come to office hours and/or contact me by email with any questions about the course, the readings, or philosophy more generally.

## Schedule:

Date	Reading
<b>Free Speech</b>	
14.10	no readings
21.10	J.S. Mill - <i>On Liberty</i> , pp. 18-25 ( <a href="#">link</a> )
28.10	Anderson - <i>Private Government</i> , pp 37-48 Teichman - "Freedom of Speech and the Public Platform"
04.11	McKinnon - "Epistemic Injustice" O'Connor & Weatherall - "The Social Media Problem" ( <a href="#">link</a> )
11.11	no class
18.11	Dang & Bright - "Scientific Conclusions need not be Accurate" ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>Personal Identity</b>	
25.11	Parfit - <i>Reasons and Persons</i> , pp. 199-217
02.12	Haslanger - "The Sex-Gender Distinction" O'Connor - "No, Animals Do Not Have Genders" ( <a href="#">link</a> )
09.12	Barnes - <i>The Minority Body</i> , pp. ix-x, 1-20
16.12	Dembroff & Wodak - "How much Gender is too much Gender?"
<b>Ethics, Medicine, and Public Health</b>	
06.01	Rachels & Rachels - <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i> , pp. 1-14 Thomson - "Killing, Letting Die, and the Trolley Problem," pp. 204-8
13.01	Plutynski - "Ethical Issues in Cancer Screening and Prevention"
20.01	Valles - "The Predictable Inequalities" ( <a href="#">link</a> )
27.01	van Basshuysen et al - "Three Ways"