OBJECTIVES
Upon successful completion of Issues in Philosophy (PL 11), the student will be able to:
(1) identify traditional and current issues in epistemology and metaphysics;
(2) distinguish between and critically assess major approaches in epistemology, such as Empiricism, Rationalism and Skepticism;
(3) distinguish and critically assess competing metaphysical approaches, for example, in Mind-Body, Personal Identity, and/or Freewill; and
(4) demonstrate skills of information management (basic on-line and/or library research).

PROCEDURES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE OBJECTIVES: Lectures, class discussion, in-class group projects, written assignments;

TEXT:

REQUIREMENTS:
1) FOUR QUIZZES: quiz 1 - 10/7 quiz 3 - 12/2
quiz 2 - 10/28 quiz 4 - 12/16
Quizzes will consist of brief essay questions relating to the readings and the course material in general. The lowest quiz-grade will be dropped. No make-up quizzes!

2) ONE PAPER - A WRITTEN TEXT REPORT (due 11/4 but may be handed in earlier)
Choose one of the philosophical texts already discussed in class (excluding films), summarize in your own words the view of the respective author, and critically evaluate the text (E.g.: What did you find most interesting about this text and why? Is this text still relevant today? Is the author consistent and convincing in his/her argumentation? Which part of the text is not convincing? Etc.). The paper should be at least three pages long, typed, double-spaced, and in the appropriate academic format (name, title, correct quotation).
If a paper is handed in before the deadline (up to the week before the due date) it may be rewritten in order to improve the grade. The due date for the second version is in general two weeks after the first version was returned. The first version has to be handed in together with the second version! In order to raise the grade, the rewritten version has to show serious improvements! Papers received at the day of the deadline may not be rewritten. Papers received after the deadline will not be accepted!

3) ONE TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM (due 12/9)
This exam will involve definitions, brief essay questions and one longer essay. Essay topics and questions will be distributed one week before the exam is due. The exam will cover material from the entire semester.

4) CLASS PARTICIPATION, READING ASSIGNMENTS AND BEHAVIOR
Class participation means to participate in the common effort of discussion in order to complement the reading material and to accomplish the aims stated in the course objectives. Absolute unwillingness to participate will result in a lower final grade. "Talking a lot" is not necessarily participation. Reading assignments have to be completed before class meetings. It is not enough to read a text; one should also be able to talk about it. The biographical introduction to each author is part of the reading. Disruptive or inconsiderate behavior (including walking in and out of the classroom during class time) will affect the grade. Cell phones and beepers have to be switched off during class time.
5) **ATTENDANCE POLICY**
The college defines excessive absence or lateness as more than the equivalent of one week of class meetings during the semester. In this course, students are allowed **no more than two absences**! Any additional absence will affect the grade. Excessive absence or lateness may lead to failure in the course or removal from the class roster. If a student is late, the time will be added up and will thereby also contribute to the amount of absences. It is the **student's obligation to sign the sign-up sheet** which will be passed around. If a student misses a class due to sickness or other justifiable reasons, **evidence needs to be shown as soon as possible**! In this case the absence will be excused. If a student drops the class after the official withdraw-date (11/3) without justifiable reason, he/she will receive an "F" for the course.

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Quizzes</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Take-Home Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Excessive absence will lower the final grade!

**PLAGIARISM:**
"In writing, students must fully acknowledge the source of any paraphrased passages and any ideas which they have borrowed. Failure to conform to these academic standards is plagiarism and may result in a failing grade for the course and/or serious disciplinary sanctions as outlines in the Code of Conduct” (SCCC Catalog, p.89). Plagiarism of any kind will result in a “0” for the assignment in question and in repeated cases in an “F” for the course.

**SCHEDULE**

**T 9/9:** Introduction: What is philosophy? The areas of philosophy: focus on epistemology and metaphysics; philosophy vs. mythology, religion, and science; historical framework: Greek, medieval, and modern thought; philosophical methods; “The Matrix” (Movie);

**T 9/16:** No Class (Rosh Hashanah);

**WHAT IS REAL? WHAT CAN I KNOW?**

**T 9/23:** discussion of “The Matrix;”
Plato, *The Allegory of the Cave* (pp.187-192);

**T 9/30:** René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditations 1 and 2, pp.193-199);

**T 10/7:** **QUIZ 1**
David Hume, Of the Origin of Ideas (pp.202-205);

**T 10/14:** William James, What Pragmatism Means (pp.213-217);

**T 10/21:** Alison Jaggar, Love and Emotion in Feminist Epistemology (pp.244-255);
WHO AM I? WHAT IS A PERSON?

T 10/28: QUIZ 2
   “Memento” (Movie);
   John Locke, Identity and Diversity (handout);

W 11/3: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES WITH GUARANTEED “W”!

T 11/4: William G. Lycan, Machine Consciousness (pp.72-77);
   PAPER DUE!

T 11/11: No Class (Veterans Day);

T 11/18: Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (pp. 53-61);
   Frantz Fanon, The Fact of Blackness (pp.134-138);

T 11/25: No Class (Thanksgiving);

ARE MY ACTIONS FREE OR DETERMINED?

T 12/2: QUIZ 3
   “A Clockwork Orange” (Movie);
   B.F. Skinner, Behaviorism (pp. 106-112);

T 12/9: Robert Blatchford, The Delusion of Free Will (pp.15-22);
   Jean-Paul Sartre, Existentialism Is a Humanism (pp. 550-559);
   TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE!

T 12/16: QUIZ 4