

Phil 1: The Nature of Philosophy

Topic: Skepticism

Fall 2022

Prof. Gila Sher

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Office Hour Sher: W 3:45-4:45, Arts & Humanities Building, Rm. 0482.

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Office Hour Andy:

Grades: Midterm (1/3), Final (2/3).

Schedule of Classes:

M 9/26	Introduction to Class
W 9/28	<i>Plato</i> : “Allegory of the Cave”
M 10/3	<i>Descartes</i> : Introduction. Read: <i>Discourse on Method</i> : Parts 1-3
W 10/5	<i>Discourse on Method</i> : Part 4 (1st page), <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> : Meditation 1
M 10/10	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (1st and 2nd pages), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 2
W 10/12	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 4 (Rest of Part 4), <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 3
M 10/17	Continuation
W 10/19	<i>Discourse</i> : Part 5, <i>Meditations</i> : Meditation 4
M 10/24	Review for Midterm
W 10/26	Midterm
M 10/31	<i>Hume</i> : Introduction
W 11/2	An Abstract of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
M 11/7	<i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> : Sections 1-3
W 11/9	Sections 4-5
M 11/14	Humean Skepticism in Perspective
W 11/16	<i>Putnam</i> : “Brains in a Vat”

M 11/21 Cont.
W 11/23 *Nagel: The Last Word*: Chapters 1-2.
M 11/28 Cont.
W 11/30 Review for Final

Required Reading:

1. Plato: "Parable of the Cave".
<https://web.stanford.edu/class/ihum40/cave.pdf>
2. Descartes: *Discourse on Method & Meditations on First Philosophy*.
UCSD Bookstore
3. Hume: *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.
UCSD Bookstore
4. Putnam: "Brains in a Vat". Course electronic reserves (through Canvas)
5. Nagel: *The Last Word*, Chs. 1-2. Course electronic reserves (through Canvas)