

Philosophy in the Cinema–Hybrid Calendar for Winter Quarter 2012

Listen to Podcast 1 before 1/19

1/12: What is philosophy?

Essay: **Epilogue to *Philosophy and Contemporary Issues***, by John R. Burr and Milton Goldinger (and especially John Stuart Mill), 1999, (and approximately mid-1800s)

Film: **Waking Life**, 2001, directed by Richard Linklater, US

1/26: SNOW

PART I: REALITY AND TRUTH

Listen to Podcast 2 before 1/26

1/26: How do we know what is really real?

Essays: **Meditations on First Philosophy (Meditations I and II)** by René Descartes, 1641. Go to <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfbits/dm1.pdf> and read all of it.

Brains in Vats, by William Poundstone, 1988. Search books.google.com for "Poundstone Labrynth of Reason", read first chapter up to the section entitled "Confirmation Theory".

Film: **The Matrix**, 1999, directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski, US

Listen to Podcast 3 before 2/2

2/2: Does truth even exist?

Essays: **Platonists, Postivists, and Pragmatists**, by Richard Rorty, 1982. Go to <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/rorty.htm> and read all of it.

Against Interpretation, by Susan Sontag, 1964. Go to <http://www.coldbacon.com/writing/sontag-againstinterpretation.html> and read all of it.

Film: **Adaptation**, 2002, directed by Spike Jonze, US

PART II: THE GOOD LIFE

Listen to Podcast 4 before 2/9

2/9: Is our society healthy?

Essays: **Existentialism is a Humanism**, by Jean-Paul Sartre, 1946. Go to www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm and read it all.

The Land Ethic, by Aldo Leopold, 1949. Go to home.btconnect.com/tipiglen/landethic.html and read the entire essay.

Film: **I ♥ Huckabees**, 2004, directed by David O. Russell, US

No podcast this week

2/16: Beginning at 5:00 PM: Exam 1!

Beginning at 7:00 PM: Term Paper Film Topics Due, Term Paper Lecture

* This material is available on reserve at the library where you will have to photocopy the pages.

PART III: PERSONHOOD

Listen to Podcast 6 before 2/23

2/23: Could there be artificial persons?

- Essays: **Computing Machinery and Intelligence**, by Alan Turing, 1950. Go to <http://mind.oxfordjournals.org/content/LIX/236/433.full.pdf> and read the entire essay.
Is the Brain's Mind a Computer Program?, by John Searle, 1990. Go to http://sils.shoin.ac.jp/~gunji/AI/CR/Is_The_Brains_Mind_A_Computer_Program.pdf and read the entire essay.
- Film: **Blade Runner: The Director's Cut**, 1982/1992, directed by Ridley Scott, US

Listen to Podcast 7 before 3/1

3/1: Are we always the same person?

- Essays: **Personal Identity and Life After Death**, by Jeffrey Olen, 1983*
Brain Transplants and Personal Identity: A Dialogue, by Derek Parfit and Godfrey Vesey, 1974. Go to http://www.philosophicalturn.net/intro/Consciousness/Parfit_Vesey_Personal_Identity.pdf and read the entire dialogue.
- Film: **Being John Malkovich**, 1999, directed by Spike Jonze, US

PART IV: RELIGION

Listen to Podcast 8 before 3/8

3/8: If God exists, why is there evil?

- Essays: **God and the Problem of Evil**, B.C. Johnson (a pseudonym), 1981*
Evil, by Herbert McCabe, 1981. Search books.google.com for "Herbert McCabe God Matters", select the top book and read "Evil" (pages 25-38).
- Film: **The Seventh Seal** (Det Sjunde Inseglet), 1957, directed by Ingmar Bergman, Sweden

Listen to Podcast 9 before 3/15

3/15: Is faith reasonable?

Term Papers Due!

- Essays: **The Ethics of Belief**, by W.K. Clifford, 1879. Go to http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/Clifford_ethics.pdf and read the entire essay.
The Will to Believe, by William James, 1897. Search books.google.com for "James Will to Believe" and choose the top book. You will read pages 1-31 in this book.
- Film: **The Wicker Man**, 1973 (don't worry, this is the original!), dir. by Robin Hardy, UK

No podcast this week

3/22 5:00-6:50: Exam 2!

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