

Junior Honors Seminar
Professor Peter Unger

Spring Semester, 2013
Thursdays 11:45AM-1: 45PM

This Course will comprise about 10 units, to be treated during its 14 weeks. Generally, we will aim to do one unit per week, but we may well get very heavily engaged in discussing certain units, in which case those may be treated in successive weeks.

The areas of philosophy to be covered include ethics and values, metaphysics, philosophy of mind and philosophy of language, as well as some metaphilosophy. Readings will be from work published during the last fifty years. When the professor has written on work in a unit, some of that work will be read, but always after reading the work of another author.

Some reading will be from online sources, as indicated below, some will be from a coursepack to be distributed in the first session of the course.

Students will write two short papers, each on a different unit, with an eye to choosing very different units. One paper will be due near the middle of the course, the exact date to be determined, and the other on the day of the last class session.

Here is a list of eight units, each defined by the reading to be done for the unit.

Unit 1

Derek Parfit (1997) "Equality and Priority" online in *Ratio* 10 (3) 202-22.
Derek Parfit (1986) "Overpopulation and the Quality of Life" in the coursepack.

Unit 2

Thomas Nagel (1970) "Death" online in *Noûs* 4 (1): 73-80.
Derek Parfit (1984) "Our Attitudes toward Time" from his *Reasons and Persons*, 165-184, in the coursepack.
Samuel Scheffler (2013) "The Afterlife", Lecture 1, 1-42, on his NYU Website.

Unit 3

Derek Parfit (1984) "Can Desires Be Intrinsically Irrational or Rationally Required?" from his *Reasons and Persons*, 120-126, in the coursepack.
Sharon Street (2009) "In Defense of Future Tuesday Indifference: Ideally Coherent Eccentrics and the Contingency of What Matters," online in *Philosophical Issues* (a supplement to *Noûs*), vol. 19 on "Metaethics," ed. Ernest Sosa, 2009, pp. 273-298.
Richard Yetter Chappell (2009) "Against a Defense of Future Tuesday Indifference" online at
<http://www.philosophyetc.net/2009/02/against-defense-of-future-tuesday.html>

Unit 4

Judith Thomson (1983) "The Trolley Problem" online in *The Yale Law Journal*, Vol.94 no.6, (April, 1985): 1395-1415.

Peter Unger (1995) Chapter 4 of *Living High and Letting Die*, in the coursepack.

Unit 5

Saul Kripke (1972, 1980) A selection on identity, the mental and the physical from *Naming and Necessity*, 140-155, in the coursepack.

Frank Jackson (1982) "Epiphenomenal Qualia" online in *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol.32, No.127 (Apr. 1982): 127-136.

Frank Jackson (1986) "What Mary Didn't Know" online in *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol.83, No.5 (May 1986): 291-295.

Eli Hirsch (2010) "Kripke's Argument Against Materialism" in coursepack.

Unit 6

Donald Mackay (1987) "Divided Brains – Divided Minds?" in coursepack.

Derek Parfit, (1987) "Divided Minds and the Nature of Persons" in the coursepack.

Roderick Chisholm (1987) "Questions about the Unity of Consciousness" in the coursepack.

Peter Unger (2004) "The Mental Problems of the Many" online from Professor Unger's NYU webpage.

Peter Unger (2006) "Two Cartesian Arguments for Some Spacelike Substantial Dualism" from *All the Power in the World*, 610-616, in the coursepack.

Unit 7

Galen Strawson (2006) "Realistic Monism: Why Physicalism Entails Panpsychism" online in *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Vol. 13 (10-11): 3-31.

Phillip Goff (2006) "Experiences Don't Sum" online in *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 10-11, 2006, pp. 53-61.

Frank Jackson (2006) "Strawson on Panpsychism" online in *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Vol. 13 (10-11): 62-64.

Unit 8

Benjamin Libet (1999) "Do We Have Free Will?" online in *The Journal of Consciousness Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 10-11, 1999, pp. 47-57.

Tim Bayne (forthcoming) "Libet and the Case for Free Will Scepticism" online by googling the paper's title.

Peter van Inwagen (1998) "The Mystery of Metaphysical Freedom" online by googling the author's name and the paper's title.

Peter Unger (2002) "Free Will and Scientificalism" online from Professor Unger's NYU webpage.