

Philosophy 101 Syllabus

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1 Instructor Information

I'm Branden Fitelson, and I am the instructor for Philosophy 101 (section 02-54789). My office is located at 3 Seminary (room 110), and I will be holding office hours from 1:30-2:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The best way to contact me is by *email*. My email address is branden@fitelson.org.

2 Texts

We will be using Richard Feldman's 1999 text *Reason and Argument* (second edition, Prentice Hall). Copies of our textbook should be available at the usual local bookstores.



Everyone should buy a copy of our textbook, as soon as possible.

We will also be using the 2005 text *Contemporary and Classic Arguments: A Portable Anthology* by Barnet & Bedau as a supplementary text (it should also be available in local bookstores now).

Throughout the semester, I will also be distributing my own course notes/handouts. Electronic versions of the my lecture notes and handouts will be posted on the *Philosophy 101 Notes & Handouts Page* at

<http://fitelson.org/101/notes.html>

as they become available.

3 What, When, Where, Why?

Philosophy 101 (section 02-54789) consists of two lectures per week: 2:50-4:10pm Tuesdays and Thursdays @ Frelinghuysen Hall, Room A2 (FH-A2).



Attendance of lectures is mandatory (see below for details).

The objective of this course is to become better at recognizing, reconstructing, and evaluating arguments.

4 Grades, Assignments, Exams, and all that...

Throughout the semester, we will have (1) homework assignments, (2) short quizzes, and (3) a final exam (see the *Philosophy 101 Tentative Course Schedule* for all details). Your grade will be determined as a function of your performance on these three things, as well as your attendance of lectures and your class participation.

Specifically, the homework assignments will be worth 40% of your grade, the short quizzes will be worth 25% of your grade, the (cumulative) final exam will be worth 25% of your final grade, and attendance/class participation will be worth 10% of your grade (this probably won't hurt you, unless you have poor attendance, and it may help you significantly if your participation is excellent).

I do *not* plan to "grade on a curve" in this course. Thus, roughly, we'll have a standard grade breakdown: 90-100 (A), 80-90 (B), *etc.* I'll tell you more about the grading scheme as the course unfolds.

I have created a tentative schedule of readings, homework assignments, and short quizzes. Undoubtedly, this schedule will change as the semester unfolds. I will keep you informed about such changes, both in class and on the *Philosophy 101 Tentative Course Schedule Page* at

<http://fitelson.org/101/schedule.html>