

# Introduction to Philosophy: Freedom

**Philosophy 20, sections 1-10**  
Spring 2010

**home pages:**

for Philosophy 20: [www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/blattnew/2/index.htm](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/blattnew/2/index.htm)

for this semester: [www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/blattnew/2/10a/index.htm](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/blattnew/2/10a/index.htm)

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## Course Syllabus

### Course Description:

What is human freedom? Is there such a thing anyhow? In this course we will look at several of the conceptions of human freedom offered in the Western philosophical tradition. You will learn not only the content of these views, but how to analyze and confront them critically.

### Role of the Course's Web pages:

The most up-to-date information about this course, the readings, and the assignments is always the course's Web pages. You are responsible for checking the course's Web pages at least the day before each class meeting (both lectures and section meetings) and whenever directed to do so by email. Course emails will be sent to your GU Mail account. Be sure that your GU Mail account is properly configured.

Blackboard will be used solely for communication *within* discussion sections, not for the distribution of general course information.

### Course Requirements:

You will write one one-page argument analysis and three short (5 pp.) papers, as follows:

Short Answer Quiz Test	Thurs., Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup> in class	10% of your final grade
First Paper:	Mon., Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight	25% of your final grade
Second Paper:	Wed., Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight	30% of your final grade
Third Paper:	Mon., May 10 <sup>th</sup> @ midnight	35% of your final grade

All four assignments must be completed to pass the course. All papers will be submitted via *turnitin.com*. Your teaching assistant may also require you to hand in a printed copy of your paper.

**Late papers:** unexcused late papers will be graded down one grade step (e.g., B+ to B) per two business days late. Please discuss legitimate excuses with your teaching assistant as early as possible, and consult my blurb on good excuses (on the Web). Having to take midterms on the same day or having several assignments from multiple classes due at the same time are *not* legitimate excuses. The formal paper assignments will be posted at least two weeks in advance of the due date. Plan in advance! The time of submission is the time as recorded in *turnitin.com*.

**Attendance policy:** Attendance in discussion section is required. Your teaching assistant will keep attendance records. If you accumulate three unexcused absences from discussion section, you will receive an "F" for the course.

**Academic Integrity:** As signatories to the Georgetown University Honor Pledge, and indeed simply as good scholars and citizens, you are required to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of this course. You are expected to be familiar with the letter and spirit of the Standards of Conduct outlined in the Georgetown Honor System and on the Honor Council website. As your instructors, the teaching assistants and I are also obligated to uphold the Honor System and will report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty. If the Honor Council confirms that a violation of the Honor Code has taken place, the violator will receive an "F" grade for the course (not just the assignment).

**Course Prerequisites:**

There are no prerequisites for this course. This course satisfies the University core requirement in general philosophy.

**Who Should *Not* Take This Course:**

If you are a senior, you should not be enrolled in this course. It is a first- or second-year level course.

If you have taken an ethics course already, you are strongly encouraged to take a Bridge level course in General Philosophy (Philosophy 150-199) instead of this course.

**Texts:**

- *Introduction to Philosophy: Freedom*, a custom reader published by Cengage Learning.
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*. Vintage.
- Some supplementary reading material will be posted on the course website

**Discussion Sections & Teaching Assistants**

Attendance at discussion sections is mandatory. Your teaching assistant will be your primary contact for the course. Please direct all inquiries first to your teaching assistant. Your teaching assistant will grade your work (under my supervision, of course).

This semester's teaching assistants are TBA. By the second week of classes, if not before, you will be able to determine who your teaching assistant is by checking the semester home page for the course.