

Philosophy 301

Philosophical Fundamentals

Storrs McCall, Fall 2011

The course will consist of (a) finding and reading texts in the library, (b) discussing them in class, (c) submitting written assignments on a regular basis, (d) serving, in rotation, as the class reporter. The final mark will be based 90% on written assignments and 10% on participation in discussions in class.

Topics discussed include the following:

Possible worlds

Substance

Leibniz' law and Identity through Time

Essential properties. The necessity of origin.

Necessary *a posteriori* truths

Determinism and quantum indeterminism

Deliberation as rational, controlled and indeterministic

Aristotle and the sea-battle. Fatalism.

Newcomb's problem

Paradox of the twins

Time flow

The definition of life

Conscious states and mental causation

Laws of nature