

Phil 87 Freshman Seminar: What Does It All Mean? 8 Philosophical Dilemmas

Room: H&SS 7077  
Times: 11:00-1:00  
Term: Fall Quarter 2008  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30 & by appointment

Prof. Eric Watkins  
Office: H&SS 8018  
Office tel: 822-0082  
E-mail: ewatkins@ucsd.edu

**I. Reading Assignments** (subject to adjustment):

9-26 Introduction

10-3 A. Death  
Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*, Ch. 9  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch.1

B. The Meaning of Life  
Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*, Ch. 10  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch. 2

10-10 A. Moral Luck  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch. 3

B. Right and Wrong  
Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*, Ch. 7  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch. 5

10-17 A. The Nature of the Mind  
Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*, Ch. 4  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch. 11 & 12

10-24 A. Knowledge and Skepticism  
Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?*, Chs. 2 & 3

B. The Origin and Resolution of Dilemmas  
Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Ch. 14

11-10 Paper due

**II. Texts:**

Nagel, Thomas. *Mortal Questions*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979.

Nagel, Thomas. *What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

**III. Requirements:**

One Presentation (30%)

One Paper (30%)

Class Participation (40%)

Presentations: Everyone must do (at least) one 15 minute presentation (in a group of 2 or 3).

Paper: The paper should be short (2-3 pages) and treat how you think that a particular issue that was presented in the readings and discussed in class, should be pursued further. It can be on the topic that you present in class.

Class Participation: Class discussion is essential.