

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY

DIALOGUE

Bertrand Russell and Humanism

Monday, November 16, 2009

Learning Center, Room 110

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Bertrand Russell made fundamental contributions to 'technical' areas of philosophy, including logic, metaphysics and philosophy of language. But outside of the world of professional philosophy, he is most well known for his articulation and defense of *Humanism*: a view of life that eschews God, and emphasizes reason, freedom, and humane relationships. In this Dialogue we'll discuss Russell's Humanism. In what exactly did it consist? What were Russell's arguments for it? Are those arguments (still) powerful?



James Nickel

Professor of Philosophy and Law
University of Miami

Dr. Nickel teaches and writes in political philosophy, philosophy of law, and human rights law and theory. He is the author of *Making Sense of Human Rights* (2nd ed. 2006) and many articles in philosophy and law. Recent articles include "[Rethinking Indivisibility: Towards a Theory of Supporting Relations between Human Rights](#)," "[Who Needs Freedom of Religion?](#)" and "[Are Human Rights Mainly Implemented by Intervention?](#)" During 2008-09 Nickel was Visiting Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. From 2003-08 he was Professor of Law at Arizona State University. From

1982-2003 Nickel was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado where he served as Director of the Center for Values and Social Policy (1982-88) and as Chair of the Philosophy Department (1992-1996).



Harvey Siegel

Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Miami

Dr. Siegel has held visiting professorships at Berkeley, Stanford, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Groningen. His research interests are in philosophy of science, epistemology, and philosophy of education. He is especially interested in issues concerning rationality, relativism and naturalism. He has published over 150 papers in journals including *Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Synthese*, *The Monist*, *Analysis*, and *Metaphilosophy*, and three books: *Relativism*

Refuted (Kluwer, 1987), *Educating Reason* (Routledge, 1988), and *Rationality Redeemed?* (Routledge, 1997). He is the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Education* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

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Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served following the discussion.

* Take US-1 to Granada Blvd., then Granada Blvd. west across University Drive to Pisano Ave. The parking lot is to your left across from Doctors Hospital.

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