

*Phil 1000-Introductory Philosophy: Major Texts
Course Outline*



Professor Patricia Sheridan
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This course will examine some of the most important and enduring thinkers in the history of Western philosophy. Although philosophers have grappled with a wide range of issues, this course will concentrate on two of the most fundamental questions that have concerned Western philosophers: What is real? and, How do humans have knowledge of reality? The questions concerning the nature of reality are a branch of philosophy called *metaphysics*, and questions about human knowledge are a branch of philosophy called *epistemology*. Some of the questions that follow from these fundamental issues are: is there a world outside the mind, what can humans know about the world, is there a distinction between the appearance of things and reality itself, what does our experience of the world tell us about what exists independently of human experience. The answers philosophers have given to these questions have shaped not only modern science, but modern conceptions of self.

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Required Text: *From Plato to Derrida*. 6th edition. Edited by Forrest Baird and Walter Kaufmann. Prentice Hall, 2008.

Evaluation:	10 1-page critical summaries*	20% (10 x 2%)
	In-class quizzes	15% (2 x 7.5%)
	Mid-term**	30%
	Final Exam***	35%

*This course will be using D2L. Please be sure to check the site throughout the term for important information regarding paper-writing guidelines and due dates, exam formats, and links to course materials.

***Critical Summaries (20%):** These are short papers, which aim to identify the central claim or argument of a piece of text and respond in some critical way to that claim or argument. Each week, a specific reading from the text will be assigned for the weekly seminars, and your critical summary will address this assigned text. For the first week of seminars (the week of September 13th), you will not need to prepare a critical summary. Your tutorial leader will spend the first session instructing you in philosophical writing. For every subsequent weekly seminar, you will be required to hand in a critical summary of no more than 1 page (250 words), typed and double-spaced. They must be handed in at the end of each seminar.

Evaluation: Each critical summary is worth 2 marks (and 2% of your course grade). You will receive a 1 on your critical summary as long as it is clear that you read the assigned text and attempted some critical engagement with the text. You can get the 2nd mark on your assignment, if you participate in the seminar. Participation involves sharing your opinions, asking questions, etc. If you do participate in the seminar discussion put a checkmark on the top right-hand corner of your assignment before handing it in to your TA. Assignments with checkmarks on them will receive 2 marks.

****Note:** these marks are like participation marks. You cannot, therefore, get the marks if you miss a seminar. *No late critical summaries will be accepted.* If you miss the seminar, you lose the grades.

Quizzes (15%): Two quizzes, involving 10 true/false questions. They are meant to test your familiarity with basic terms and ideas that have been covered in the lectures and the seminars. These will take place in the last 20 minutes of class twice in the term (refer to the course schedule for dates).

****Mid-term test (30%):** This will be an in-class test (50 minutes); essay format. Two essay questions will appear on the test and you will be asked to choose and answer only one. This test is cumulative of all material covered in class and in the seminars, up to the date of the mid-term. Date: October 19th.

-if you are not able to write the test for medical or compassionate reasons, please come talk to me as early as possible.

*****Final exam (35%):** This exam will be 2 hours long (room TBA); essay format. You will be given three essay questions, in class, on the last day of classes and two of them will appear on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term, in class and in the seminars. Date: December 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

-if you are unable to write the final exam, there are specific procedures set out in the Undergraduate Calendar.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>