

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1000-01: Introductory Philosophy: Major Texts / Fall 2011

Instructor: Jeff Mitscherling
Office & email: MacKinnon 323 jmitsche@uoguelph.ca
Office Hours: Tue. & Thurs. 11:30–2:20, & by appointment

Class meets: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30–3:20, ROZH 103

List of Tutorials & Tutorial Leaders:

T1	Thursday	4:30 – 5:20	(MACK 309)	Adam Langridge:	alangrid@uoguelph.ca
T2	Friday	2:30 – 3:20	(MACK 307)	Harold Duggan:	hduggan@uoguelph.ca
T3	Thursday	3:30 – 4:20	(MACK 314)	Adam Langridge:	alangrid@uoguelph.ca
T4	Friday	9:30 – 10:20	(MACK 309)	Harold Duggan:	hduggan@uoguelph.ca
T5	Thursday	7:00 – 7:50	(MACK 316)	Jeannette Hicks:	jhicks01@uoguelph.ca
T6	Thursday	8:00 – 8:50	(MACK 316)	Jeannette Hicks:	jhicks01@uoguelph.ca
T7	Friday	10:30 – 11:20	(MACK 311)	Dan Harris:	dharri03@uoguelph.ca
T8	Friday	11:30 – 12:20	(CRSC 101)	Dan Harris:	dharri03@uoguelph.ca
T9	Friday	12:30 – 1:20	(MACK 306)	Alexander Maranduik:	amarandu@uoguelph.ca
T10	Friday	1:30 – 2:20	(MACK 306)	Alexander Maranduik:	amarandu@uoguelph.ca

Brief Description Of Course: This course has four chief goals:

- (1) to introduce the students to some of the major texts of western philosophy;
- (2) to familiarize the students with some basic philosophical concepts, terminology and problems drawn from three of the major branches of philosophy—namely, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics;
- (3) to supply the students with a general historical framework in which to locate major figures and movements in philosophy and religion.
- (4) to provide the students with the opportunity to practice composing short, concise, essay-style answers to philosophical questions.

We shall proceed historically, beginning with earlier thinkers and ending with later. The format of the course will be lecture and tutorial. The lectures will (i) provide the students with a general conceptual and historical framework for western—and, to a lesser extent, eastern—thought, and (ii) introduce and clarify those basic philosophical issues raised in the readings for the course that will constitute the material for tutorial discussion. Some materials and information will be posted on CourseLink throughout the term, but this is **not** to be regarded by the student as a Distance Education course. This course presupposes the students' attendance at lectures and participation in seminars, and questions raised by the students during lectures are especially welcomed.

Required Texts:

Plato, *Symposium*, tr. Christopher Gill, Penguin Books, 1999.
Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, tr. Victor Watts, Penguin Books, revised edition, 1999.
Descartes, *Meditations*, tr. Laurence J. Lafleur, Prentice Hall, 1960.
Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, ed. Martin Bell, Penguin Books, 1990.

Method of Evaluation:

(1) 10 written assignments = 60%

[due as indicated on “Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Seminar Assignments”; see **Instructions for Assignments** below]

(2) final exam = 40%

[to be held as scheduled by the Registrar, the format of the exam to be announced no later than the last day of class]

Instructions for Assignments:

Each assignment is basically a short take-home quiz. Most of these assignments require very brief essay-type answers to one or two questions dealing with the material currently under discussion in the lectures and seminars. The questions will be announced in lectures and seminars and on CourseLink.

Each assignment is worth a maximum possible 6 points (with each point equaling 1% of the maximum possible 100% for the entire course).

These assignments must be submitted in electronic format, preferably as Word file attachments, prior to the beginning of the student’s scheduled seminar on the due dates indicated on the **Schedule** included in this Course Outline.

These assignments must be written in standard English, with grammatically correct sentences and proper standard spelling, and no non-standard abbreviations are allowed.

Each assignment must be no longer than 250 words total.

If a student is unable to submit any of these assignments as required, we shall follow the instructions described below under “**When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...**” . Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the tutorial leader or instructor, and they will be subject to the following penalty: For each portion of the 24-hour period following the beginning of the seminar prior to which the assignment is due, 2 points will be subtracted from the maximum possible total of 6 points.

Statements Regarding University Regulations:

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 2011 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday 3 November**. 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/>

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Seminar Assignments

[Note: seminars *will* be held on 8 & 9 September. Seminars will not be held and on 1 & 2 December]

Thursday	8 September	Introduction to course & brief historical overview from Plato to Hume
	no seminar assignment	
Tuesday	13 September	Introduction to Plato and his Dialogues; introduction to <i>Symposium</i>
Thursday	15 September	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 172a-180c
	seminar assignment:	first set of comments on <i>Symposium</i>
Tuesday	20 September	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 180c-189c
Thursday	22 September	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 189c-201c
	seminar assignment:	second set of comments on <i>Symposium</i>
Tuesday	27 September	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 201d-223d
Thursday	29 September	from Plato to Boethius
	seminar assignment:	third set of comments on <i>Symposium</i>
Tuesday	4 October	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book I
Thursday	6 October	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book II
	seminar assignment:	first set of comments on <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Tuesday	11 October	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book III
Thursday	13 October	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book IV
	seminar assignment:	second set of comments on <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
Tuesday	18 October	Boethius, <i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book V
Thursday	20 October	from Boethius to Descartes
	no seminar assignment	
Tuesday	25 October	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> I & II
Thursday	27 October	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> II & III
	seminar assignment:	first set of comments on <i>Meditations</i>
Tuesday	1 November	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> III & IV
Thursday	3 November	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> IV & V [last day to drop one-semester courses]
	seminar assignment:	second set of comments on <i>Meditations</i>
Tuesday	8 November	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> V & VI
Thursday	10 November	from Descartes to Hume
	seminar assignment:	third set of comments on <i>Meditations</i>
Tuesday	15 November	Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Parts I & II
Thursday	17 November	Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Parts III, IV & V
	seminar assignment:	first set of comments on <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>
Tuesday	22 November	Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Parts VI, VII, VIII & IX
Thursday	24 November	Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Parts X, XI & XII
	seminar assignment:	second set of comments on <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>
Tuesday	29 November	summary & review