

University of Guelph, Department of Philosophy (Fall, 2011)

PHIL*1050-01, Introductory Philosophy: Basic Problems

Monday & Wednesday, 4:30-5:20 ALEX200

Seminar sections on Thursday & Friday

Course Outline – Read carefully and keep for future reference

Instructor: Paul Raymont

Office: MACK (office wing), Rm. 339

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Email: praymont@uoguelph.ca

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 3:00-4:00

The last lecture session for this course is on Thursday, Dec. 1, when the Monday schedule will be followed.

Teaching Assistants:

Tutorials 1 & 2 - Dan McDonald, dmcdon03@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 1: Thursday 8:30-9:20, CRSC101

Tutorial 2: Friday 9:30-10:20, CRSC101

Tutorials 3 & 4 - Justin Price, jprice02@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 3: Friday 10:30-11:20, MACK306

Tutorial 4: Thursday 1:30-2:20, MACK311

Tutorials 5 & 6 - Chris Wood, cwood03@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 5: Thursday 2:30-3:20, MACK309

Tutorial 6: Thursday 3:30-4:20, MACK309

Tutorials 7 & 8 - Doug Halls, dhalls@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 7: Thursday 10:30-11:20, MACK305

Tutorial 8: Thursday 11:30-12:20, MACK312

Tutorials 9 & 10 - John Lundy, jlundy@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 9: Thursday 12:30-1:20, MACK312

Tutorial 10: Thursday 9:30-10:20, MACK305

Tutorials 11 & 12- Max Degaust, mdegaust@uoguelph.ca

Tutorial 11: 11:30-12:20, MACK311

Tutorial 12: 12:30-1:20, MACK304

Course prerequisites: none

Course description: This course introduces students to philosophy through the exploration of basic perennial philosophical problems and questions, such as whether there is free will, a God, objective right and wrong, genuine knowledge of the world, and other topics.

Required texts: A. Bailey, *First Philosophy – Concise Edition* (Broadview Press, 2006; ISBN: 9781551118239)

This text will be supplemented by assigned on-line material.

Requirements: Your *final grade for this course will be based on five items*: three assignments, one in-class midterm test, and one final exam. You must submit a hard copy (i.e., printout) of each of the assignments at the beginning of your seminar meeting in the week when the assignment is due.

The assignments should have the following format: double-spaced, single-sided, 12-point print, pages stapled and numbered consecutively, no title page, no duo-tangs or other covers. Papers will not be accepted by fax or e-mail. A printout (hard copy) of each assignment must be submitted. **The penalty for late work is 5% per day** (inc. weekends and holidays). Keep paper or other reliable **back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments**; you may be asked to resubmit your work.

Improper referencing in the assignments **will adversely affect your grade**. Students must ensure that they present a complete list of the works that they have consulted in preparation for their written work, and must ensure that clear footnotes or endnotes (which include page references) are provided for any quoted material and for any reference to a published work, including material that is published on the internet. Assistance in writing papers is available at the Learning Commons (Library, 1st floor, <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>).

First Assignment: due in your seminar meeting in the week of Sept 26-30, worth 10% of your final grade. Length: 700 words (approx. 2.3 pages)

Second Assignment: due in your seminar in the week of Oct 10-14, worth 10% of final grade. Length: 700 words (approx. 2.3 pgs.)

Midterm Test: Oct 26, worth 25% of final grade. Closed-book, no aids permitted. It is unlikely that the grades for this test will be available before the drop deadline.

Third Assignment: due in your seminar in the week of Nov 7-11, worth 20% of final grade. Length: 1400 words (4.5-5 pgs.)

Final Exam*: Dec. 6, 2011, beginning at 11:30 AM. 2 hours in duration, worth 35% of final grade. Closed-book, no aids permitted.

**It is each student's responsibility to confirm the time and location of the final exam.*

In order to pass the test and exam, you must be familiar with, and able to answer questions about, the material that is presented in class and in the required readings.

Each student must check regularly this course's website.

On-line Resources: The best on-line resource for philosophy is the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, which is at <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>. Also helpful is the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* at <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>.

Re. on-line dictionaries: entering a word at <http://www.onelook.com/> will call up its definitions in several on-line dictionaries.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca email account regularly – email is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

If You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

If 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, November 3, 2011. 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/>

Grading Standards

A+	90-100%	C	63-66
A	85-89	C-	60-62
A-	80-84	D+	57-59
B+	77-79	D	53-56
B	73-76	D-	50-52
B-	70-72	F	0-49
C+	67-69		

- **80 - 100 (A) Excellent.** An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **70 - 79 (B) Good.** A more than adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a thorough grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to organize and examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the relevant issues and a familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **60 - 69 (C) Acceptable.** An adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a generally adequate grasp of the subject matter and a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student displays an adequate understanding of the relevant issues, and a general familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **50 - 59 (D) Minimally Acceptable.** A barely adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a familiarity with the subject matter, but whose attempts to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner are only partially successful. The student displays some understanding of the relevant issues, and some familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

0 - 49 (F) Fail. An inadequate performance.