

Phil 1000*01: Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: John Russon

Office: Mackinnon 338; Hours: Thursday 2:30-3:30 or by appointment.

Lectures: Tuesdays 7-8:50, THRN 1200

Mandatory Seminars:

0101: Wed 8:30-9:20, GRHM 2302	T.A. Tymm Schmitke
0102: Wed 9:30-10:20, GRHM 2302	T.A. Tymm Schmitke
0103: Thurs 10:30-11:20, MACK 119A	T.A. Amy Butchart
0104: Thurs 11:30-12:20, MACK 119A	T.A. Amy Butchart
0105: Thurs 12:30-1:20, MACK 315	T.A. Balraj Persaud
0106: Thurs 1:30-2:20, MACK 304	T.A. Balraj Persaud
0107: Fri 10:30-11:20, MACK 119A	T.A. Brian Rogers
0108: Fri 11:30-12:20, MACK 304	T.A. Brian Rogers

Teaching Assistants:

Tymm Schmitke, tschmitk@uoguelph.ca, Mack 324, Wed. 12:30-1:30

Amy Butchart, abutchar@uoguelph.ca, Mack 360, Thurs. 1:30-2:30

Balraj Persaud, bpersaud@uoguelph.ca, Mack 324, Thurs. 2:30-3:30

Brian Rogers, rogersb@uoguelph.ca, Mack 325, Fri. 1:00-2:00

The world of ideas is one of the most exciting areas of human study. In this course we will look at some of the most provocative and world-changing ideas in human history. We will begin with a substantial study of philosophy in ancient Greece—the birthplace of the practice we call “philosophy.” Our readings from Plato and Aristotle will explore the distinctive nature of human being, and consider the essential place of the human being in relation to nature and culture. These ideas continue to form much of our most basic understanding of both freedom and nature. From ancient Greece, we will turn to Early Modern Europe and the time of the “Scientific Revolution.” Here we will look at the ideas of René Descartes and John Locke, who challenged central aspects of the ancient view of humanity, and whose ideas about knowledge and politics, respectively, laid the cornerstone for modern science and modern democracy. We will conclude with a study of contemporary philosophy, focusing especially on the thought of Michel Foucault, whose work investigates the political and psychological problems that have emerged through the very project of modernity launched in Descartes and Locke.

This course will have **two components**—a **weekly lecture** in which you will be introduced to these ideas and their broader context, and a **weekly discussion section** in which you will engage in more focused study of the texts in a more intimate setting.

Course Objectives.

1. This is a *first-year* course in the Humanities, so one of the main objectives of the course is to introduce you to university studies in general, and, more specifically, to the study of the great works of our culture. At different levels of your university study, different kinds of work will be appropriate, but at this level, you should focus on *being introduced*: one of the greatest benefits of university is that it brings you into contact with people, books and ideas you did not know before. The course should open new horizons of thought for you, and it should especially give you new ideas about what you want to study in upcoming years. The best way to benefit from this opportunity is for you to be open-minded yourself. Give yourself room to reflect on your own life and your own future, and be open to the idea that you might want your future studies to go in a different direction than you imagined when you first came to university.

2. The texts we will be studying are some of the most powerful and influential works that human culture has ever produced. These are works that gave voice to the ideas that have shaped the development of human culture over the past 2500 years, and they are works that continue to have the capacity to transform how one thinks and lives. One of the main goals of the course, then, is to have you encounter the formative ideas that have shaped our world—to learn both why they are important and *why they are controversial*.

3. Studying the great works of our culture is not simply a matter of collecting “information.” In order to understand these works, *you have to grow as a thinker*. To study these works effectively, you will have to improve your ability to read, your ability to write, your ability to discuss, and your ability to think. The regular assignments are oriented towards helping you to cultivate your core skills:

--Working directly with the texts will push you to *read* more effectively.

--Tests and essays will require that you hone your *writing* skills.

--Weekly seminars will cultivate your ability to *discuss* matters constructively.

The overall content of the course—and this is what marks it as a *philosophy* course in particular—is an engagement with the *controversies* in *fundamental ideas by which we live*.

--Engaging effectively with the content requires *creative* and *critical thinking*.

4. Finally, it is the goal of this course to *stimulate your imagination*. I hope that through your study in this course you will come to see the importance of the issues under discussion—the basic questions of who we are and what life is about—and that you will discover how exciting and valuable the study of philosophy and its history can be.

Required Texts:

Plato, Great Dialogues of Plato, trans. Rouse (Signet)

Aristotle, Introduction to Aristotle, ed. McKeon (McGraw Hill)

Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy, trans. Cress (Hackett)

Locke, Political Writings, ed. Wootton (Hackett)

Foucault, Discipline and Punish, (Vintage)

Lecture Schedule:

Each week, you should read the assigned pages in advance of the lecture. *In the lecture*, I will talk about the ideas in the text and also about broader contextualizing issues. *In the weekly discussion section*, you will talk in greater detail about the specifics of the text, and discuss the philosophical ideas raised by the text and the lecture.

UNIT I: Ancient Philosophy

Sept 10: Plato Apology: The Story of Socrates, pp 502-531.

Sept 17: Plato, Republic: The Divided Line and the Cave, pp 358-374

Sept 24: Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics: The Animal with Logos,

I.7, I.13, II.2, **II.6-7**, X.6-8, pp **316-19**, 328-31, 332-4, **338-44**, 529-37

--Antigone, second chorus in tutorial (handout)

--*Analysis due in class.*

Oct 1: Aristotle Pol I.1-2, EN II.1: The Political Animal, pp 553-7, 331-2

--Thucydides, "Pericles' Funeral Oration" in tutorial (handout)

Oct 8: Plato, Crito: Law and Self-Identity, pp 532-547

--*Analysis due in class.*

--*Mid-term Test in tutorial.*

UNIT II: Early Modern Philosophy

Oct 15: Descartes, Meditations: The Mind, ##1 and 2, pp 59-66 [-69]

Oct 22: Descartes, Meditations: Knowledge, ##2 and 4, pp 66-69, 81-87

Oct 29: Locke, Second Treatise: Rights, ##1-4, pp 261-273

Nov 5: Locke, Second Treatise: Property, #5, pp 273-286

UNIT III: Contemporary European Philosophy

Nov 12: Marx, "Alienated Labour," (handout)

--*Critical Essay due in class*

Nov 19: Foucault, Discipline and Punish: The Body and Power,

pp 23-26, 28-31, 135-43, 149-152, 164, 168-9, the images after 169

Nov 26: Foucault, Discipline and Punish: Discipline/Surveillance,

pp 170-4, 177-9, 181-3, 184-7, 194, 195-209

Final Examination: Friday December 13, 11:30-1:30.

Assignments:

In addition to reading the assignments and attending and participating in the lectures you are required to complete the following assignments, on which you will be graded.

1. Seminar participation (15%)

--The seminars are a major component of the course, and you will be graded on your participation in them. Notice that **the grade is substantial**. You are expected to attend the seminar session every week, and to come prepared to participate constructively in discussion of the course material. Your seminar-leader will be the person primarily responsible for shaping your involvement with the course, and she or he will be the one evaluating your work. In addition to regularly attending and participating in the seminars, you should also make a point of meeting with your seminar leader in her or his office hours to discuss the course material and your assignments.

2. Two (2) Analytical Assignments

--You will be required to write up a short explanation and analysis of the ideas presented in a specific portion of text. Precise questions will be handed out in class.

--Analysis of Divided Line. Due in class September 24 (5%)

--Analysis of Polis. Due in class October 8 (10%)

3. Mid-term Test: Week of October 10 (in tutorial) (20%)

--This test will involve short answer questions, and an essay question, all focusing on the materials we studied from ancient philosophy

4. Critical Essay: Due in class, November 12 (25%)

--In this essay, you will be required (1) to explain accurately the positions of one ancient philosopher and one early modern philosophy, (2) to compare the two positions, and (3) to develop your own critical response to their positions. You will compare either Descartes and Aristotle on knowledge and mind or Locke and Plato on politics. Precise instructions and topics will be handed out in class.

5. Final Examination: December 13 (25%)

--This will be a comprehensive test, i.e., it will cover material from the whole course. It will involve essay questions and short answer questions.

NB: A resource you should be aware of:

The Library and Learning Commons offers free services to help you succeed in your first year at the University of Guelph?

You can:

- meet with a peer helper to talk about study strategies or your writing assignments
- attend Supported Learning Groups
- get assistance finding journal articles and books
- register for academic workshops
- lots more!

Visit the Library website for more information: www.lib.uoguelph.ca

College of Arts Standard Statements:

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 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday October 31**. 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

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/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>