

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



Professor Patricia Sheridan
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00
Office: MacKinnon 335
Email: pmsherid@uoguelph.ca

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?” 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, what are we capable of knowing, and how do we attain fulfillment. The answers philosophers have given to these questions have shaped not only modern science, but modern conceptions of self. Ultimately, these questions deal with what it means to be human; how these questions all turn on this most fundamental issue is what this course aims to show.

Teaching Assistants: *Office hours TBA*

Orsolya Csaszar	Tutorials: Thursdays 1:30-2:20 and 2:30-3:20
Vedran Grahovac	Tutorials: Thursdays 3:30-4:20 and 4:30-5:20
Jeannette Hicks	Tutorials: Wednesdays 3:30-4:20 and 4:30-5:20
Hanna Jones-Eriksson	Tutorials: Wednesdays 1:30-2:20 and 2:30-3:20

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

Evaluation:

Tutorial Questions*	12% (8 x 1.5%: best 8 out of 10)
2 two-page critical summaries**	28% (2 x 14%)
Mid-term***	25%
Final Exam****	35%

This course will be using Courselink. Please be sure to check the site throughout the term for course materials, powerpoints, and grades.

***Tutorial Questions (12%)** A specific question will be assigned to each tutorial session (these will be announced in class on Mondays and will be posted thereafter on our Courselink site). While the discussion at each tutorial may cover a range of issues and concerns, these assigned questions are intended to give you a jumping-off point for critically assessing the thinker or issue covered that week in the lectures. Your answers cannot be more than one page double-spaced, and must be at least ½ page double-spaced. **There is no question due for the first tutorial (week of Sept. 8th)**

Evaluation: Each tutorial question is worth 1.5 marks (and 1.5% of your course grade). You will receive a 1 on your question as long as it is clear that you've read the assigned text and made a serious attempt at answering the question. You can get .5 mark on your assignment, if you participate in the tutorial. Participation involves sharing your opinions, asking questions, etc. If you do participate in the tutorial 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 1.5 marks.

****N.B.:** 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.*
However, note that only the best 8 out of 10 count.

****Critical Summaries (2 x 14%):** These are short 2-page 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. A detailed instruction sheet will be distributed. A specific reading from the text will be announced in your tutorial two weeks before the assignment is due (The due weeks are as indicated in the course schedule below). The assignments must be handed in to your TA, in your tutorial. The critical summary must be handed in typed and double-spaced and be no more than two pages long. There is no late penalty, and no assignments will be accepted late unless you speak to me, Professor Sheridan. I will allow late assignments only on compassionate or medical grounds.

*****Mid-term test (25%):** This will be an in-class test (50 minutes); essay format. One question will appear on the test and you will have 50 minutes to answer it. Date is listed below.
--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, in the last week of classes and two of them will appear in the exact same wording on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term, in class and in the seminars.

Reading list & schedule of assignments

September 8: Introduction: the pursuit of knowledge and living well

September 10: Plato, *Apology* (entire selection)

September 15: Plato, *Republic* (Book VI)
**Critical Summary assignments handed out in this week's tutorials

September 17: Plato, *Republic* (Book VII)

- September 22: Epicurus, *Principle Doctrines* (entire selection)
- September 24: Epictetus, *Handbook (Enchiridion)* (entire selection)
- September 29: Epicurus and Epictetus, continued
**Critical Summary 1 due in this week's tutorials
- October 1: Pyrrho/Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* (entire selection)
- October 6: Descartes, *First Meditation* (entire)
- October 8: Descartes, *Second Meditation* (entire)
- October 13: *Holiday, no classes*
- October 15: Descartes, *Second Meditation*
- October 20: Descartes, *Sixth Meditation (entire)*
- October 22: Descartes, *Sixth Meditation*
- October 27: Descartes/Princess Elizabeth (p. 417-420)
**Critical Summary 2 handed out in this week's tutorials
- October 29: *Mid-term*
- November 3: Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Book II, Chs. 1 & 2)
- November 5: Locke, *Essay* (Book II, Ch. 8)
- November 10: Locke, *Essay* (Book II, Ch. 12, 23)
**Critical Summary 2 due in this week's tutorials
- November 12: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues, The First Dialogue* (entire)
- November 17: Berkeley, *First Dialogue*
- November 19: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Sections II & III)
- November 24: Hume, *Enquiry* (Section IV)
- November 26: Hume, *Enquiry* (Section V)
- November 28 (class rescheduled from Thanksgiving): Wrap-up

Final exam date: December 1, 2:30-4:30 (Room TBA)

****Important Information****

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 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday 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>