



Department of Philosophy

PHIL•1050•01

“Introductory Philosophy: Basic Problems”

Fall 2013

Mon., Weds. 11:30–12:20, Thornbrough (THRN) 1200

Seminar Sections: Weds, Thurs or Fri.

COURSE OUTLINE

Please read this outline carefully and retain it for future reference.

Instructor: Andrew Bailey

Office: [MacKinnon 357](#)

Phone extension: 56389

E-mail: abailey@uoguelph.ca

Class web site: [CourseLink](#)

Office hours: Monday 2:00–3:30, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

- Niels Feuerhahn, nfeuerha@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Weds 3:45–4:45 (MACK 368)
Section 1: Weds 1:30–2:20 (GRHM 2302)
Section 2: Weds 2:30–3:20 (MACK 119A)
- Casey Ford, fordc@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Weds 5:30–6:30 (MACK 325)
Section 3: Weds 3:30–4:20 (MACK 119A)
Section 4: Weds 4:30–5:20 (GRHM 2302)
- Vedran Grahovac, vgrahova@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Thurs 4:00–5:00 (MACK 325)
Section 5: Thurs 1:30–2:20 (GRHM 2302)
Section 6: Thurs 2:30–3:20 (MACK 119A)
- Chris Wood, cwood03@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Thurs 2:30–3:20 (MACK 368)
Section 7: Thurs 3:30–4:20 (MACK 119A)
Section 8: Thurs 4:30–5:20 (MACK 119)
- Daniel Harris, dharri03@uoguelph.ca
Office hours: Weds 12:30–1:30 (MACK 361)
Section 9: Fri 11:30–12:20 (GRHM 2302)
Section 10: Fri 12:30–1:20 (MACK 304)

Course prerequisites: none.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to some of the fundamental concepts, problems and skills of philosophy. We shall deal with such questions as whether God exists, whether there is a real or objective difference between right and wrong, whether it is possible for us to gain reliable knowledge of the natural world, and whether we have free will. The aim of the course is to help you think clearly and systematically about these sort of problems.

You will be expected to read independently from the course text—not all material will be covered in the lectures. Throughout the class our aim will be to develop the ability to *critically discuss* what you have read and heard, rather than merely to report on it. That is, you should try hard to develop and assess *arguments* for and against the positions you will encounter.

TEXTS:

- A. Bailey with R.M. Martin, *First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy*, second edition (Broadview Press 2011, ISBN: 978-1-55111-971-7)

All required readings will be from *First Philosophy*. The readings are often challenging, and you should allow yourself plenty of time to work through them before class.

The main content for this course—the content that you will be examined on—is the readings from the textbook. Classes and seminar discussions are intended to assist you in your engagement with the texts, rather than to summarize, supplement or replace them. I will be assuming that you will be devoting at least four or five hours a week *outside of class time* to reading and thinking about the texts (including time spent preparing for exams and writing the short essays).

EVALUATION:

There will be four two-page papers (together worth 32%), a mid-term exam (worth 30%), and a final exam (worth 38%). You do not need to pass all of the assignments in order to pass the course, but students who do not sit the final exam and write at least one of the papers will be graded as “Incomplete.”

A: Short Papers.

- These papers will be **due in your seminar groups** on the following dates:
 - Paper 1: The week of Wednesday, September 25th.
 - Paper 2: The week of Wednesday, October 2nd.
 - Paper 3: The week of Wednesday, November 6th.
 - Paper 4: The week of Wednesday, November 13th.
- For each paper we’ll hand out a topic about a week before the paper is due.
- The papers will be graded out of 30, according to the following scheme:

A+	27	90%
A	26	87%
A-	24	80%
B+	23	77%
B	22	73%
B-	21	70%
C+	20	67%
C	19	63%
C-	18	60%
D+	17	57%
D	16	53%
D-	15	50%
F	0	0%

- Each paper should be no more than about 750 words in length—that is, roughly, between 1½ and 2½ pages. You will need to pay attention to making sure your paper addresses exactly the question

that is asked. In grading the essays, we will take into consideration your ability to use correctly and effectively the language appropriate to the assignment: in particular, you should strive to write grammatically, accurately, clearly, precisely and concisely. More detailed evaluation criteria and advice will be provided with the first essay topics.

- Please note that these papers should be handed in to your TA or to me in class. Papers cannot normally be submitted or returned via the department administrative office or through the campus mail system. Papers can be submitted by e-mail only in an emergency.
- Your TAs or I will be happy to talk with you about what we expect in these papers, and give you advice on preparing them. Assistance with writing essays is also available from the Learning Commons (Library, first floor, www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca).

B: Exams.

- The Mid-Term Exam will be held in-class on **Monday, October 21st**.
- The Final Exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11th, 11:30AM–1:30PM**, in a top-secret location to be announced.
- The two exams will have the same format: there will be a small number of multiple-choice or yes/no questions, but most of the exam will consist in short-answer essay questions (each marked out of 30 according to the above scheme).
- The exam will not be open book, but **you can bring a ‘cheat sheet’ to both exams**. On a standard sheet of 8½"×11" paper you can write anything at all that you think might help you, on either or both sides, and you can refer to that sheet (but nothing else) during the exam.
- After the **mid-term** exam (but not the Final) you may submit an optional term paper (within about two weeks of the return of the test): the term paper mark will, if higher, replace the mark of the corresponding test, *unless* the test grade was an F (in which case that mark will stand). Come and see me to talk about this if want to take this option: the paper should be about 8 pages long and on a topic that was covered by the test.

The essays and exam will be graded using standards described in Section VIII of the Undergraduate Calendar (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-grds.shtml>).

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 number, 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>).

LATE PENALTIES:

Unless other arrangements are made, in writing, with the course instructor or TA, late assignments will be penalized by 5% for the first day they are late and then 2% for every subsequent day. (For example, a grade that otherwise would have been 77% will be 68% for an essay that is three days late.) To ‘stop the clock’ for a late assignment, email it to the TA as soon as it is completed; then hand in a hard copy at your next seminar meeting or the TA’s office hours.

DROP DATE:

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2013 courses without academic penalty is Tuesday 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/c15/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.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

Resources are available to you if you require additional support in the course (e.g. if you have a learning disability or are dealing with other issues that are impacting on your ability to meet the course requirements). I encourage you to come and discuss this me, and to contact the appropriate university resource. The Centre for Students with Disabilities (which includes learning disabilities) is on Level 3 of the University Centre (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>), as is Counselling Services (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>).

RESOURCES:

- a. The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations that apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>.
- b. The best resource for general academic counselling (e.g. about degree requirements, or for approval to add/drop a course) is your program counsellor: these are listed at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>. The Philosophy Department's academic advisor for undergraduates is Prof. Omid Payrow Shabani, extension 53201, oshabani@uoguelph.ca.
- c. The Library and Learning Commons offer 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, and lots more. Visit the Library website for more information: www.lib.uoguelph.ca/first.

PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE, PHIL•1050•01, FALL 2013

	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUTORIAL
1	Sept. 9 th : What is Philosophy?	Sept. 11 th : Tools for Argument	<i>Meet and greet; making philosophical arguments</i>
2	Sept. 16 th : Aquinas's 'Proofs of God' Aquinas	Sept. 18 th : Ontological Argument (for God) Anselm and Gaunilo	<i>Discussion: Arguments for God. Preparation for first essay.</i>
3	Sept. 23 rd : Design Argument (for God) Hume's Dialogues	Sept. 25 th : Argument from Evil (vs. God) Mackie	<i>Discussion: Arguments against God—the problem of evil. Preparation for second essay.</i> FIRST ESSAY DUE
4	Sept. 30 th : Religion Wrap-Up	Oct. 2 nd : Foundationalism / Radical Scepticism Descartes	<i>Discussion: The prospect of radical scepticism.</i> SECOND ESSAY DUE
5	Oct. 7 th : Empiricism: Qualities and Substance Locke	Oct. 9 th : Idealism: Ideas in the Mind of God Berkeley	<i>Discussion: Primary and secondary qualities; the coherence of substance.</i>
6	Oct. 14 th : NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	Oct. 16 th : Modern Empiricism/Responses to Scepticism Russell	<i>Discussion: Idealism and realism. Preparation for mid-term exam.</i>
7	Oct. 21 st : MID-TERM EXAM	Oct. 23 rd : The Classic Problem of Induction Hume's Enquiry	<i>Discussion: The problem of induction.</i>
8	Oct 28 th : The New Riddle of Induction Goodman	Oct. 30 th : Free Will: The Paradox R e and Campbell (Oct 31 st : Last Day To Drop)	<i>Discussion: The problem of free will. Preparation for third essay.</i>
9	Nov. 4 th : Free Will: Compatibilism Dennett	Nov. 6 th : Ethical Meta-Theory Plato	<i>Discussion: Is morality intrinsically worthwhile? Preparation for fourth essay.</i> THIRD ESSAY DUE
10	Nov. 11 th : Ethical Meta-Theory	Nov. 13 th : Aristotle's Ethics Aristotle	<i>Discussion: Is morality relative?</i> FOURTH ESSAY DUE
11	Nov. 18 th : Kant's Ethics Kant's Metaphysics of Morals	Nov. 20 th : Utilitarianism Mill's Utilitarianism	<i>Discussion: What is the best ethical theory?</i>
12	Nov. 25 th : Ethics Wrap-Up	Nov. 27 th : Exam Review	Nov. 28th: LAST CLASS!

NOTE: Readings are to be done *by the class date indicated.*

Date of Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11th, 11:30AM–1:30PM

READING SCHEDULE:

All of the following readings are from *First Philosophy*. Please read and think about them *before* the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed. The recommended readings are on the left. Following them, in square brackets, are the parts of the readings that are *required*. No exam or assignment question will require you to have read any material (including editorial notes) which is not specified in square brackets; however, reading the surrounding material should help you make more sense of the required material. (You are also, of course, at liberty to refer to the extra material in your essays, as long as you are answering the specific question that is asked you.)

For Week 1 (7 pages):

- Chapter 1 [A Brief Introduction to Arguments, pp. 5–11]

For Week 2 (7 pages):

- Chapter 2: Aquinas [Third Article, pp. 41–42]
- Chapter 2: Anselm and Gaunilo [Proslogion, pp. 21–23; Pro Insipiente, Para 6, p. 25–26]

For Week 3: (35 pages)

- Chapter 2: Hume [Parts II and III (pp. 49–58), V (pp. 61–64), X and XI (pp. 71–82)]
- Chapter 2: Mackie [Evil and Omnipotence, pp. 97–105]

For Week 4: (31 pages)

- Chapter 3: Descartes [Meditations I–VI, pp. 142–172]

For Week 5: (33 pages)

- Chapter 3: Locke [II:VIII, §§8–23, pp. 179–182; II:XXIII, §§1–6, pp. 183–185, IV:XI §§3–14, pp. 186–189]
- Chapter 3: Berkeley [First Dialogue, pp. 195–215]

For Week 6: (11 pages)

- Chapter 3: Russell [Chaps. 1–3, pp. 236–246]

For Week 7: (8 pages)

- Chapter 4: Hume [Section IV, pp. 296–303]

For Week 8: (30 pages)

- Chapter 4: Goodman [Section 4, pp. 319–322]
- Chapter 6: R e [The Illusion of Free Will, pp. 530–542]
- Chapter 6: Campbell [Has the Self Free Will?, pp. 545–556]

For Week 9: (18 pages)

- Chapter 6: Dennett [On Giving Libertarians..., pp. 567–576]
- Chapter 7: Plato [Book II, pp. 610–617]

For Week 10: (8 pages)

- Chapter 7: Aristotle [I.7 and II.5–9, pp. 625–632]

For Week 11: (44 pages)

- Chapter 7: Kant [First and Second Sections, pp. 647–670]
- Chapter 7: Mill [Chaps. 1–2, pp. 680–695; Chap. 4, pp. 700–703]

For Week 12: (0 pages)

[Total: 232 pages]