

INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY: BASIC PROBLEMS

PHIL 1050*02, 0.5 credits
Fall 2014
Prerequisites: none

Instructor: Andrew Wayne
Office: MACK 331
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 – 1:00
or by appointment
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Teaching assistants

Rachel Elliott	MACK 367	rellio02@uoguelph.ca	Office hours Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00
Doug Halls	MACK 325	dhalls@uoguelph.ca	Office hours Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00
Martin King	MACK 362	mking04@uoguelph.ca	Office hours Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00

Class schedule

Lecture Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:50 ROZH 103 Andrew Wayne
First meeting: Sept. 9; last meeting November 27.
NOTE: There will be no lecture Tues., Oct. 14 (fall study break day), and there will be an additional class *Thursday*, Nov. 27 to make up the missed class.

Seminars

Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:20	MACK 119A	Martin King
Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:20	CRSC 101	Martin King
Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:20	MACK 315	Rachel Elliott
Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:20	MACK 315	Rachel Elliott
Thursday, 1:30 – 2:20	MACS 301	Doug Halls
Thursday, 2:30 – 3:20	CRSC 101	Doug Halls
Friday, 11:30 – 12:20	MACK 305	Doug Halls
Friday, 12:30 – 1:20	MACK 306	Doug Halls

NOTE: First meeting of seminars Wednesday, September 10; last meeting Friday, November 21.

Final exam Thursday, December 4, 2:30 – 4:30, room TBA

Texts and Course Materials

- *First Philosophy: Knowing and Being*, second edition. Edited by: Andrew Bailey with Robert M. Martin.
- Online materials at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. You are responsible for accessing CourseLink regularly. Some course materials and grading comments will only be available on CourseLink.

Course Outline

This course is an introduction to the problems and methods of philosophy. Readings are from original texts by philosophers from René Descartes to Helen Longino. The course focuses on three topics.

- Knowledge and belief: what do I know about the world?
- Scientific method: should I believe the results of science?
- Free will: did my neurons make me do it?

The course has three main aims.

- To master the content of the material;
- To develop the ability to formulate one's thoughts clearly and cogently, the ability to express oneself with precision and rigour, and the ability to approach texts and arguments in an open-minded yet critical way;
- To gain an appreciation of philosophy and philosophical method, including its history, its central problems and its connections with other intellectual endeavours.

Course Requirements

- 10% Seminar participation
- 10% Best 10 in-class quizzes (in lecture)
- 10% Best 10 reading responses (you may answer up to two questions per week)
- 20% Midterm, October 7
- 25% Essay, assigned in seminars the week of October 14, due the week of November 11
- 25% Final exam

Electronic devices

In order to create a positive learning environment for all participants, electronic devices may only be used during lectures and seminars for purposes directly associated with the class: taking notes, quizzes and related activities. Electronic devices may not be used for texting, social media or other non-class activities.

Additional support

Students with special needs or requiring additional support are encouraged to speak with me as early in the term as possible to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.

College of Arts Policy Statements

Please see: https://www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy/resources/standard_statements

Tentative weekly schedule

NOTE: readings and reading responses are to be completed prior to the lecture.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required reading</u>	<u>Recommended reading</u>
Sept. 9	Introduction	None	pp. ix-xi & 1-14

1. Knowledge and belief: what do I know about the world?

Sept. 16	Descartes	Meditations 1, 2 & 4	Meditations 3, 5 & 6 and pp. 15-26
Sept. 23	Russell	pp. 123-133	pp. 119-123
Sept. 30	Code	pp. 141-157	pp. 140-141

2. Scientific method: should I believe the results of science?

Oct. 7	<i>Midterm</i> ; Hempel	pp. 185-189	pp. 159-161 & 182-185
Oct. 14	<i>No lecture; essays assigned in seminar</i>	None.	None.
Oct. 21	Popper	Sections 1, IV, V, VIII & IX	pp. 189-194
Oct. 28	Kuhn	pp. 219-231	pp. 214-218
Nov. 4	Longino	pp. 233-241	pp. 231-233

3. Free will: did my neurons make me do it?

Nov. 11	Ree <i>Essays due in seminar</i>	pp. 434-446	pp. 429-434
Nov. 18	Ayer	pp. 462-467	pp. 460-462
Nov. 25	Williams and Nagel	pp. 471-482	pp. 467-470
Nov. 27	Conclusion	Reading assignment TBA	TBA
Dec. 4	<i>Final exam</i>		