



PHIL*1000 Classic Thinkers

Fall 2018

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 07, 2018

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course will deal with enduring philosophical questions through an exploration of primary texts in the history of philosophy. Topics covered may include the nature of knowledge and the different types of knowledge, the relationship between the mind and the body, and the nature of good and evil. Texts and topics will vary with the instructor; students are advised to consult the Philosophy department's website.

1.2 Course Description

This course is an introduction to philosophy through readings from the great thinkers of the past. Its aim is to give students a sense that the major issues and questions within philosophy, although initially raised by thinkers of the past, are in fact perennial and therefore still relevant to us today. We will accordingly examine a range of traditional topics, from a variety of historical periods, associated with such branches of philosophy as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and the philosophy of religion. Thinkers studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas and Descartes. Questions to be addressed will include: Am I free to choose between right and wrong, or are all of my actions determined by antecedent causes? Does God exist and, if so, can his existence be rationally demonstrated? And can I be certain of anything?

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructor(s)

Peter Eardley (PhD)

Email:

peardley@uoguelph.ca

Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x53211
Office: MCKN 333
Office Hours: Fridays 2-3 PM

2.2 Teaching Assistant(s)

Teaching Assistant: Ilknur Ozalli
Email: iozalli@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: Kyle Johnston
Email: kjohns32@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: Robert Minatel
Email: rminatel@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant: Richard ("Will") Valliere
Email: rvallier@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

Textbook (Textbook)

L. Pojman and J. Feiser. Eds. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 4th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Think critically
 2. Write carefully
 3. Read advanced philosophical texts
 4. Communicate abstract ideas
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Note: This schedule is tentative. Depending on whether discussion arises in class, we may get a bit behind schedule from time to time.

5.1 Lecture

Mon, Sep 10

Topic(s): Introduction to Course

Wed, Sep 12

Topic(s): The Discipline of Philosophy

Reference(s): Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy," 25-29.

Mon, Sep 17

Topic(s): The Problem of Free Will

Reference(s): W.T. Stace, "Compatibilism Free Will is Consistent with Determinism," 408-413.

Wed, Sep 19

Topic(s): The Problem of Free Will

Reference(s): Stace, cont.

Mon, Sep 24

Topic(s): Moral Responsibility

Reference(s): Aristotle, "Voluntary Action and Responsibility," 436-441.

Wed, Sep 26

Topic(s): Moral Responsibility

Reference(s): Aristotle, cont.

Mon, Oct 1

Topic(s): Punishment

Reference(s): Immanuel Kant, "The Right to Punish: Retributivism," 475-478.

Wed, Oct 3

Topic(s): Philosophy of Religion.

Reference(s): Thomas Aquinas, "The Five Ways," 183-185.

Mon, Oct 8

Topic(s): **No Class -- Thanksgiving**

Mon, Oct 15

Topic(s): Philosophy of Religion

Reference(s): Aquinas, cont.

Wed, Oct 17

Topic(s): Philosophy of Religion

Reference(s): St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," 205-209.

Mon, Oct 22

Topic(s): Faith and Reason

Reference(s): William James, "The Will to Believe," 264-269.

Wed, Oct 24

Topic(s): Knowledge

Reference(s): Plato, "The Theory of Forms," 36-41.

Mon, Oct 29

Topic(s): Knowledge

Reference(s): Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," 49-68.

Wed, Oct 31

Topic(s): Knowledge

Reference(s): Descartes, "Meditations" cont. 68-79.

Mon, Nov 5

Topic(s): Ethics

Reference(s): Aristotle, "Virtues", 592-601.

Wed, Nov 7

Topic(s):	Ethics.
Reference(s):	Aristotle, cont.
Mon, Nov 12	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Aristotle, cont.
Wed, Nov 14	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Thomas Hobbes, "The Social Contract," 602-610.
Mon, Nov 19	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Hobbes cont.
Wed, Nov 21	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Immanuel Kant, "Duty and the Categorical Imperative," 617-628.
Mon, Nov 26	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Louis, Pojman, "Ethical Relativism v. Ethical Objectivism," 519-528.
Wed, Nov 28	
Topic(s):	Ethics
Reference(s):	Friedrich Nietzsche, "Beyond Good and Evil," 641-649.
Fri, Nov 30	
Topic(s):	Course Wrap-Up/Review

5.2 Tutorial Reading Schedule

Week 1: Plato, "Socratic Wisdom," 11-19.

Week 2: Lewis, "Against the Humanitarian Theory of Rehabilitation," 489-493.

Week 3: Epictetus, "Stoic Resignation to Fate," 441-445.

Week 4: Swinburne, "A Theistic Response to the Problem of Evil," 236-247.

Week 5: Hume, "Experience and the Limits of Human Reason," 112-126.

Week 6: Plato, "Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul," 373-376

Week 7: Descartes, "Interactive Dualism," 286-290.

Week 8: Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?" 329-336..

Week 9: Plato, "Gyges' Ring," 545-550.

Week 10: Mackie, "The Law of the Jungle," 559-565.

Week: 11: Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Computers," 349-355.

Week 12: Locke: "The Self as Psychological Properties," 361-363; Hume, "The Self as a Bundle of Perceptions," 364-366.

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Seminar Papers (10*2%) (20%)

Midterm Examination (35%)

Date: Wed, Oct 10
During Class Time

Final Examination (45%)

Date: Tue, Dec 4
8:30-10:30 AM

Room: TBA

7 Course Statements

7.1 Information on Seminars

The 'seminar' refers to your weekly meetings with the teaching assistants for the course. At the beginning of these meetings, you will hand in your 10 x 250 word papers for the week, and you will be expected to contribute to class discussion on the topic. ***You must not only attend the tutorial meeting at which you are submitting your paper, but you must also stay for the duration of the seminar in order to receive credit for your paper.*** Your papers will each be graded out of two points. Papers that are not submitted will obviously receive a zero out of two; papers that are handed in, but have problems with grammar, expression or comprehension, will receive one point out of two; and papers that show a firm grasp of the reading and that are well written, will receive a full two points. Your TA will answer specific questions about these papers at their first meeting with you. Note that, although you will be expected to come to the first meeting having done the reading for the day, you will not have to submit a paper. Of the remaining 11 seminar meetings over the course of the term, you will hand in 10 papers (x 2% = 20%). Which tutorial you choose not to submit a paper for/attend without being penalized will be up to you. Also, you must hand them in, as noted, at the beginning of each seminar, not afterwards.

7.2 Policy on the Use of Electronic Devices

Please note that the use of Laptop computers and other electronic devices is NOT permitted during the lectures.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 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. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.4 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.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

8.6 Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.
