

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
Department of Philosophy
Winter Semester 2018

Phil*2370 Introduction to Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind (0.5cr)

Instructor: Prof. April Marratto

Email: amarratt@uoguelph.ca

Office: Mackinnon 360 (in the office tower, not classrooms)

Office hours: Thursdays 9-10am

Classes: Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00-2:20 Crop Science Building rm. 116

COURSE OUTLINE

Course objectives: This class will strive to be discussion oriented. Lectures will help to stimulate discussion and help focus our discussions, in addition to helping students learn terminology used in discussions of metaphysics and philosophy of mind. Students should be prepared to engage in discussion most classes, if not with the entire class, definitely in smaller groups. The ability to think on the spot and defend or readjust your oral comments is an important skill for academics and the marketplace. Please note that while I believe oral communication to be an important skill, I also respect that for some students, oral communication is the source of much anxiety. It is for this reason that *no one has to participate*.

Learning outcomes: Students will be given the chance to learn to write with precision. Students will also be encouraged to sharpen their oral communication skills. Finally, as a class we will learn how historical conversations can be a useful way to understand current topics of interest.

Prerequisites: none

Text:

Required:

1. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins eds. *Modern Philosophy 2nd ed. An Anthology of Primary Sources*. Hackett Publishing Company.
2. Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein, or 'The Modern Prometheus' the 1818 text*. Oxford World Classics ed.

Method of Presentation: Our class will be one of discussion and lecture. The purpose of the lectures will be to stimulate class discussion and help us to engage with the reading materials. I will not be lecturing through the readings; it is up to you to do the readings and ask questions for clarity. I will give time at the beginning of each class for questions about the readings. A good understanding of the readings will help you write better class papers.

Method of Evaluation:

Short Paper – 3 pages 15%
Short Paper #2 – 4 pages 25%
Short paper #3 – 5 pages 25%

The goals of these papers are for you to get comfortable wrestling with a text, on your own, without external sources and to learn to write with precision. The papers increase in value so that you can progressively build off the comments given to you. Your last paper should be much more concise and well argued than your first.

Final Exam- 35%
Take home- 8-10 pages max

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of a short article to read on a contemporary conversation in metaphysics/philosophy of mind. You will interact with the article using the philosophers we have covered in class by answering 2 essay-type questions. I strongly encourage you to use *Frankenstein* in your answers. You will have one week to complete the exam and it must be handed in through courselink.

Hint: Given that our core text is *Frankenstein*, it is VERY likely that the article will be about Artificial Intelligence because it connects very well with Shelley's project.

Notes:

I have a "Life Happens" policy in all of my classes. For this class, you are permitted to hand in any ONE paper up to two weeks late, without any prior approval required. You must email me on or before the due date to indicate that you will be handing in your paper late (but you do not need to explain why—I really don't want to know).

THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FINAL EXAM. ALL COURSEWORK MUST BE HANDED IN BY THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES.

Syllabus:

Mary Shelley *Frankenstein*

January 9th *Frankenstein*
January 11th *Frankenstein*
January 16th *Frankenstein*
January 18th *Frankenstein*

Question handed out for Short Paper #1 (Due Jan. 25th)

The Rationalists

January 23rd Montaigne “Apology for Raymond Sebond” (4-16)

January 25th **Short Paper #1 Due**

January 30th Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy* (35-47)

February 1st Descartes (47-58)

February 6th Descartes (58-68)

February 8th Leibniz (225-235)

February 13th Leibniz (235-247)

February 15th Leibniz Short Paper #2 question handed out (Due Feb. 27th)

February 20th and 22nd Reading Break

February 27th **Short Paper #2 Due**

March 1st Spinoza (164-188)

March 6th Spinoza (164-188)

March 8th Spinoza (188-196)

The Empiricists

March 13th Berkeley (454-474)

March 15th Berkeley (475-484)

March 20th Berkeley (484- 503)

Short Paper #3 question handed out (Due March 22nd)

March 22nd **Short Paper #3 Due**

March 27th Hume (pages TBA)

March 29th Hume (pages TBA)

April 3rd TBA

April 5th TBA **Final Exam Questions Handed Out**

College of Arts Standard Statement of Expectations

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.](#)

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day (**Friday, 9 March 2018**); 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.](#)

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.

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. [For more information see the SAS web site.](#)

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.](#)

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.](#)

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.

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.