

INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY: BASIC PROBLEMS

PHIL 1050*01, 0.5 credits

Fall 2015

Prerequisites: none

Instructor: Andrew Wayne

Office: MACK 331

Office hours: Wednesday 1:30 – 2:30 pm

or by appointment

Tel: 519-824-4120 x56787

Email: awayne@uoguelph.ca

Teaching assistants

Brady Fullerton	MACK 366	bfullert@uoguelph.ca
Daniel Griffin	MACK 361	griwind@uoguelph.ca
Gerardo Becerra	MACK 324	gvillagr@uoguelph.ca
Yanis Aouamri	MACK 324	yaouamri@mail.uoguelph.ca

Office hours: TBA

Office hours: Wed. 12 - 1

Office hours: Thurs. 10 – 11 am

Office hours: Fri 1 – 2 pm

Class schedule

Lecture M W 3:30 – 4:20 ALEX 100 Andrew Wayne
First meeting: September 14; last meeting: December 4.

Seminars

1	Wednesday, 10:30 - 11:20	CRSC 101	Brady Fullerton
2	Wednesday, 11:30 - 12:20	CRSC 101	Gerardo Becerra
3	Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:20	MCKN 119A	Daniel Griffin
4	Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:20	CRSC 101	Daniel Griffin
5	Thursday, 11:30 – 12:20	MCKN 119	Brady Fullerton
6	Thursday, 12:30 – 1:20	MCKN 119	Gerardo Becerra
7	Thursday, 1:30 – 2:20	GRHM 2302	Yanis Aouamri
8	Thursday, 2:30 – 3:20	CRSC 101	Yanis Aouamri

NOTE: First meeting of seminars: September 16; last meeting December 3.

Final exam Friday, December 18, 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 Réné 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 of 11 in-class quizzes (in lecture)
- 10% Best 10 of 20 reading responses (you may answer up to two questions per week)
- 20% Midterm, October 14
- 25% Essay, assigned in seminars the week of October 19, due the week of November 16
- 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 must 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 must be completed prior to the Monday class.

Date	Topic	Required reading	Recommended reading
Sept. 14 & 16	Introduction	p. 430 (i), (ii) and (iii)	pp. ix-xi & 1-14

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

Sept. 21 & 23	Descartes	Meditations 1, 2 & 4	Meditations 3, 5 & 6 and pp. 15-26
Sept. 28 & 30	Russell	pp. 123-133	pp. 119-123
Oct. 5 & 7	Code	pp. 141-157	pp. 140-141
Oct. 14	<i>Midterm</i>	None	None

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

Oct. 19 & 21	Hempel	pp. 185-189	pp. 159-161 & 182-185
<i>Essays assigned in seminar</i>			
Oct. 26 & 28	Popper	Sections 1, IV, V, VIII & IX	pp. 189-194
Nov. 2 & 4	Kuhn	pp. 219-231	pp. 214-218
Nov. 9 & 11	Longino	pp. 233-241	pp. 231-233

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

Nov. 16 & 18	Ree	pp. 434-446	pp. 429-434
<i>Essays due in seminar</i>			
Nov. 23 & 25	Ayer	pp. 462-467	pp. 460-462
Nov. 30, Dec. 2	Williams & Nagel & 4	pp. 471-482	pp. 467-470
Dec. 18	<i>Final exam</i>		

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca email account regularly. Email 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 email contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar:

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

DROP DATE

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 6, 2015. See the Undergraduate Calendar

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Keep paper and/or other reliable backup copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or refer to the SAS website <https://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>.

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 at:

<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 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 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 Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>