

*Philosophy 1050*  
*Introductory Philosophy: Basic Problems*  
Winter 2014

Professor Patricia Sheridan  
Office hours: Thursdays, 11:30-1:00, or by appointment  
Email: pmsherid@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistants (office hours TBA)

Casey Ford	Tutorials: Wednesdays 10:30-11:20 and 11:30-12:20
Thom Campbell	Tutorials: Wednesdays 12:30-1:20 and 1:30-2:20
Christi Storfa	Tutorials: Thursdays 3:30-4:20 and 4:30-5:20
Tim Schmitke	Tutorials: Thursdays 1:30-2:20 and 2:30-3:20

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*Course Outline*

This course will introduce you to some of the basic and enduring issues of the Western philosophical tradition. Beginning with the existence of God and the problem of evil, we will move through issues in epistemology, ethics and social and political philosophy. This course will cover a range of thinkers from the ancient and medieval periods up to the twentieth century. The aim of this course is to acquaint you with some of the core issues in philosophy and how it is that philosophers specifically go about dealing with them.

You will be expected to read the primary texts and encouraged to critically assess what you read. The lectures are intended to broaden your comprehension of the material and provide you with some critical insight, and the tutorials are intended to provide you with a forum for critical discussion and analysis. Your assignments all involve critical engagement with the texts and you will be expected to formulate positions on the texts you read. In this way the course aims to introduce you to both philosophical issues and method.

*Required text:*

A. Bailey and Robert M. Martin, *First Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Broadview Press, 2011)

*Evaluation:*

Tutorial Questions*	14% (7 x 2%: best 7 out of 10)
2 two-page critical summaries**	26% (2 x 13%)
Mid-term***	25%
Final Exam****	35%

*This course will be using D2L. Please be sure to check the site throughout the term for course materials, powerpoints, and grades.*

**\*Tutorial Questions (14%)** A specific “Question for Further Thought” will be assigned to each tutorial session (these are indicated in the course schedule below). While the discussion at each tutorial may cover a range of issues and concerns, these assigned questions are intended to give you a jumping-off point for critically assessing the thinker or issue covered that week in the lectures. Your answers can not be more than one page double-spaced, and must be at least ½ page double-spaced.

*Evaluation:* Each tutorial question is worth 2 marks (and 2% of your course grade). You will receive a 1 on your question as long as it is clear that you’ve read the assigned text and made a serious attempt at answering the question. You can get the 2<sup>nd</sup> mark on your assignment, if you participate in the tutorial. Participation involves sharing your opinions, asking questions, etc. If you do participate in the tutorial discussion put a checkmark on the top right-hand corner of your assignment before handing it in to your TA. The checkmark will warrant a full point. Assignments with checkmarks on them will receive 2 marks. **\*\*Note:** these marks are like participation marks. You cannot, therefore, get the marks if you miss a seminar. *No late critical summaries will be accepted. If you miss the seminar, you lose the grades.* However, note that only the best 7 out of 10 count.

**\*\*Critical Summaries (2 x 13%):** These are short papers, which aim to identify the central claim or argument of a piece of text and respond in some critical way to that claim or argument. A detailed instruction sheet will be distributed. A specific reading from the text will be announced in your tutorial two weeks before the assignment is due (The due weeks are as indicated in the course schedule below). The assignments must be handed in to your TA, in your tutorial. The critical summary must be handed in typed and double-spaced and no more than two pages long. There is no late penalty, and no assignments will be accepted late unless you speak to me, Professor Sheridan. I will allow late assignments only on compassionate or medical grounds.

**\*\*\*Mid-term test (25%):** This will be an in-class test (50 minutes); essay format. One question will appear on the test and you will have 50 minutes to answer it. This test is cumulative of all material covered in Sections I and II of the course, as indicated in the schedule below. Date: February 24<sup>th</sup>  
--if you are not able to write the test for medical or compassionate reasons, please come talk to me as early as possible.

**\*\*\*\*Final exam (35%):** This exam will be 2 hours long (room TBA); essay format. You will be given three essay questions, in class, on the last day of classes and two of them will appear in the exact same wording on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term, in class and in the seminars. Date: Monday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Room TBA

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*See over for Course reading schedule*

## Course Schedule

(this is a tentative schedule and subject to change—  
any changes will be announced in class and on the course website)

January 6: Introduction to the course

### Section I: Does God Exist?

January 8: St. Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*, 21-23  
Guanilo, *Pro Insipiente*, 23-26

Tutorial: No question due for this tutorial; general discussion of proofs of God

January 13: Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*  
January 15: Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence”

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #3, p. 97

### Section II: Epistemology—what can we understand about ourselves and the world?

January 20: Descartes, *Meditations 1-2*

January 22: Descartes, *Meditations 5-6*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #7, p. 141  
**Critical Summary #1 Question handed out in tutorials**

January 27: Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

January 29: Locke, *Essay continued*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #7, p. 178

February 3: Berkeley, *First Dialogue*

February 5: Code, “Is the Sex of the Knower Epistemologically Significant?”

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #4, p. 195  
**Critical Summary #1 due this week in tutorials**

### Section III: Ethics—how do we know right from wrong?

February 10: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (pgs. 624-636)

February 12: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics continued*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #2 & #4 (these are related questions), p. 622-23

Week of February 17<sup>th</sup>: Reading Week

February 24: *Mid-term (covers sections I and II of the course)*  
February 26: Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #2, p. 645

March 3: Kant, *Foundations, continued*  
March 5: Mill, *Utilitarianism, chapters 1-2*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #2, p. 677

March 10: Mill, *Utilitarianism, continued*  
March 12: Held, *Feminist Transformations of Moral Theory*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #7, p. 716  
**Critical Summary #2 handed out this week in tutorials**

*Section IV: Social and Political Philosophy—issues of justice*

March 17: Mill, *On Liberty*  
March 19: Mill, *On Liberty, continued*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #7, p. 785

March 24: Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*  
March 26: de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Tutorial: Suggestions for Critical Reflection, #7, p. 852  
**Critical Summary #2 due this week in tutorials**

March 31: Okin, "Justice and Gender"  
April 2: Catch-up and wrap -up

Tutorial: review, no question due this week

April 14: Final Exam, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Room TBA

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**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:

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

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 7, 2014**. 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/c14/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.

### **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 Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>