INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY: BASIC PROBLEMS

PHIL 1050*02, 0.5 credits  Instructor: Andrew Wayne
Fall 2014  Office: MACK 331
Prerequisites: none  Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 – 1:00
or by appointment
Tel: 519-824-4120 x56787
Email: awayne@uoguelph.ca

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](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.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required reading</th>
<th>Recommended reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>pp. ix-xi &amp; 1-14</td>
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1. Knowledge and belief: what do I know about the world?

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Recommended reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Descartes</td>
<td>Meditations 1, 2 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Meditations 3, 5 &amp; 6 and pp. 15-26</td>
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<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>pp. 123-133</td>
<td>pp. 119-123</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>pp. 141-157</td>
<td>pp. 140-141</td>
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2. Scientific method: should I believe the results of science?

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<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Midterm; Hempel</td>
<td>pp. 185-189</td>
<td>pp. 159-161 &amp; 182-185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>No lecture; essays assigned in seminar</td>
<td>None.</td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Popper</td>
<td>Sections 1, IV, V, VIII &amp; IX</td>
<td>pp. 189-194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>Kuhn</td>
<td>pp. 219-231</td>
<td>pp. 214-218</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Longino</td>
<td>pp. 233-241</td>
<td>pp. 231-233</td>
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3. Free will: did my neurons make me do it?

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