

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-100: Introduction to Philosophy: Classics

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Summer 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Anthony J. Gavin

EMAIL: GavinA@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Young 312

HOURS: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-3:00pm (after class both days)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to classical philosophical works concerning central philosophical issues such as the nature and possibility of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of morality and justice, and the mind/body relationship.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe fundamental philosophical problems, along with the classical philosophical answers to these problems.
2. Distinguish among various philosophical theories.
3. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
4. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Textbook: John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. 9th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2022.

Additional readings will be made available on D2L.

Additional recommended resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP): <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP): <https://iep.utm.edu>

Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/>

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Page numbers are for the textbook unless otherwise stated.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
WEEK ONE	WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?	
Monday, May 1 st	<p><i>Topic: What is philosophy for?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory lecture• Review course syllabus <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, "Apology: Defense of Socrates," pp. 33-48 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midgley, "Philosophical Plumbing" (on D2L), pp. 139-151	<p><i>I don't expect you to be caught up on the readings on the first day, but they will be referenced in my introductory lecture.</i></p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Wednesday, May 3 rd	<p><i>Topic: What do philosophers do?</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, "Allegory of the Cave," pp. 157-162 • Plato, <i>Meno</i>, 93a-100b (on D2L), pp. 892-897 • Russell, "The Value of Philosophy," pp. 29-32 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deleuze & Guattari, "Introduction: The Question Then..." (on D2L), pp. 1-12 	
WEEK TWO	WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?	
Monday, May 8 th	<p><i>Topic: Philosophy as medicine for the soul</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>, 57a-84c, 115b-118a (on D2L), pp. 50-73, 97-100 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jansen, "Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> as a Pedagogical Drama" (on D2L), pp. 333-352 	
Wednesday, May 10 th	<p><i>Topic: On the ailments best cured by philosophy</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>, 257c-279c (on D2L), pp. 534-556 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrida, excerpts from "Plato's Pharmacy" (on D2L) 	
WEEK THREE	KNOWLEDGE AND SKEPTICISM	
Monday, May 15 th	<p><i>Topic: Rationalism, the 'truth' of reason</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," pp. 164-175 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nozick, "The Experience Machine," pp. 162-163 	Seminar quiz #1
Wednesday, May 17 th	<p><i>Topic: Empiricism, the 'truth' of experience</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding," pp. 193-219 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deleuze, "The Problem of Knowledge and the Problem of Ethics" (on D2L), pp. 21-36 • Kant, excerpt from <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</i>, Preface (on D2L), pp. 7-12 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
WEEK FOUR	ETHICS	
Monday, May 22 nd	<p><i>Topic: Utilitarianism and deontology</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bentham, "The Principle of Utility," pp. 481-484 • Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals," pp. 520-536 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill, "Utilitarianism," pp. 485-501 • O'Neill, "Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems," pp. 537-543 	
Wednesday, May 24 th	<p><i>Topic: Virtue ethics</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics," pp. 544-559 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tessman, "Critical Virtue Ethics: Understanding Oppression as Morally Damaging" (on D2L), pp. 1-20 	
WEEK FIVE	GOD AND EVIL	
Monday, May 29 th	<p><i>Topic: The existence of God</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," pp. 52-24 • Aquinas, "The Existence of God," pp. 54-56 • Kierkegaard, excerpts from <i>Concluding Unscientific Postscript</i> (on D2L), pp. 19-20, 167-172 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James, "The Will to Believe," pp. 62-73 	Seminar quiz #2
Wednesday, May 31 st	<p><i>Topic: The problem of evil</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leibniz, "God, Evil and the Best of All Possible Worlds," pp. 104-106 • Levinas, "Reflections on the Philosophy of Hitlerism" (on D2L), pp. 63-71 • Arendt, excerpts from <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> (on D2L), pp. 20-27, 244-248, 273-274 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott, "On the Crassness of Leibniz's Metaphysics" (on D2L), pp. 311-337 • Butler, "Hannah Arendt's Challenge to Adolf Eichmann" (on D2L), link to article online • Norlock, "Perpetual Struggle" (on D2L), pp. 6-19 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
WEEK SIX	FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY	
Monday, June 5 th	<p><i>Topic: Free will and determinism</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity," pp. 406-416 • Hampshire, "Spinoza's Theory of Human Freedom" (on D2L), pp. 554-566 • Spinoza, "Of the Power of the Understanding, or of Human Freedom," Preface (on D2L), pp. 379-382 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deleuze, "On the Difference Between the <i>Ethics</i> and a Morality" (on D2L), pp. 17-29 	
Wednesday, June 7 th	<p><i>Topic: Existentialism and human freedom</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus," pp. 660-662 • Sartre, "Existentialism Is a Humanism" (on D2L), pp. 17-54 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Beauvoir, "Personal Freedom and Others" (on D2L), pp. 14-31 	
WEEK SEVEN	WHAT (ELSE) IS PHILOSOPHY?	
Monday, June 12 th	<p><i>Topic: Situated epistemology and feminist ethics</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haraway, "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective" (on D2L), pp. 575-599 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaufman, "Is Philosophy Anything If It Isn't White?" (on D2L), pp. 1-15 	Seminar quiz #3
Wednesday, June 14 th	<p><i>Topic: Indigenous philosophies</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umek (Atleo), "Introduction: Development of an Indigenous Theory" (on D2L), pp. xi-xx <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simpson, "Land as Pedagogy" (on D2L), pp. 145-173 	
	Final Exam Period	Final essay due June 21 st

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Seminar activities (7 x 5%)	35%
Seminar quizzes (3 x 10%)	30%
Final essay	25%
Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. COVID-19 Guidelines

For up-to-date information on the college's COVID-19 guidelines, please use the following link:

<https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

2. Course Delivery and Attendance

As soon as you register, you'll have access to the course website on D2L. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the course website. This is where you'll find any readings not included in the course textbook.

Students are expected to attend lecture and seminar each week. No excuse is necessary if you are unable to attend, but regular non-attendance will negatively impact your grade, especially participation (as discussed further below). Please ensure that you are caught up on the required reading(s) before each seminar, so that you can fully participate in seminar activities.

It is very important to attend the first class. Failure to do so will result in your being automatically dropped.

Waitlisted students are also welcome to attend the first class. If you are unable to attend the first class, please let me know as soon as possible.

3. Academic Integrity

You are welcome and encouraged to discuss course material with others in your class, and work together to solve problems. However, any work that you hand in must be your own. Passing off another's work as your own constitutes **plagiarism**, which is a serious academic offence. *This includes work copied from a nonhuman source, such as artificial intelligence (AI)-powered text generators.* Please consult Camosun's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>) if you are ever unsure about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity. In my experience, most incidents of plagiarism are accidental; thus, they are easily avoidable, if students fully inform themselves of academic integrity standards and citation practices.

4. Late Submissions and Extensions

Late work is penalized at 10% per day up to a maximum of 5 days, after which it will no longer be accepted. However, I know that things do not always go according to plan. By default, each student is welcome to two day's worth of penalty-free extensions. This means that you can take two extra days to complete one assignment, or have one extra day on two different assignments. However, there is an important caveat to this. You must let me know before the due date if you are using an extension; otherwise, your work will count as late.

In case of any missed in-class work, make-ups will be considered, on a case by case basis, with a valid excuse.

5. Communication and Office Hours

Email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don't hear back from me after that time, please feel free to try me again, in case your message went astray. When you address me (over email or otherwise), please do so as either Professor (Prof.) Gavin, or Anthony. If you are ever nervous about sending me an email, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether I'll be able to help with your request, but it does provide a nice icebreaker.

Congratulations! You found an easter egg. For a bonus 1% to be added your final grade, simply email me the secret passphrase, "better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied." Thanks for reading the syllabus!

I will be available for **office hours** on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1:30-3pm (right after class). Priority will be given to students with appointments, but drop-ins are also more than welcome. My office is located in the Young Building, Room 312. I am also available for online appointments via Zoom (in which case, you'll need to schedule an appointment, so I can send you the Zoom invite). If neither of these options works for you, please feel free to suggest an alternative.

Finally, my pronouns are he/him/his. If you think I am unlikely to know the name you would prefer to be called, or the pronouns that I should use for you through the entry that I will see for you on D2L and your college registration, please don't hesitate to make me aware.

6. Basis of Evaluation

- **Seminar quizzes (3 x 10% = 30%)**

Each seminar quiz consists of three sections: (1) matching, (2) multiple choice, and (3) short answer.

Each quiz lasts 20 minutes, plus a 5 minute grace period (unless you have made alternative arrangements with me through CAL). The timer will start at the beginning of each seminar in which there is a quiz assigned, *so be sure to arrive on time!*

- Seminar quiz #1 is on **Monday, May 15th**.
- Seminar quiz #2 is on **Monday, May 29th**.
- Seminar quiz #3 is on **Monday, June 12th**.

[Continued on the next page...]

- **Seminar activities (7 x 5% = 35%)**

Seminar activities will take place in each seminar without a quiz, equating to 10 seminars total. You may miss up to 3 seminar activities penalty-free.

For each seminar activity, the class will be divided into groups of 3-4. Each group will then be handed a worksheet to complete, with questions about the readings. Worksheets will be handed back to me at the end of seminar and graded for completion. Each activity lasts 20 minutes, plus a 5 minute grace period, after which time we will come together to continue the discussion as a class.

- **Final essay (25%)**

Write a short philosophical essay, on a topic of your choosing, from a list of topics prepared by me.

Your essay should be **1500-2000 words** in length (please do not exceed a maximum of 2500 words). This amounts to about 6-8 pages, using a 12-pt Times New Roman font, double spaced. Please clearly indicate your chosen topic on the cover page.

- Final essays are due one week after our final meeting, on **Wednesday, June 21st**.

*Students have the chance to earn up to 5% of their take-home essay score in advance. All that you have to do is submit a rough draft for me to review, on or before **June 7th** (two weeks before the final essay is due). Your rough draft will be graded for completion only; however, please note that an incomplete, or improperly formatted draft will not be considered complete. A completed rough draft will earn you 5%, and the weight of your final essay will be adjusted to 20% accordingly.*

*You may also wish to write on a topic of your own choosing. You are free to do so; however, there is a caveat. To do so, you must propose your topic to me first, by no later than **June 1st** (three weeks before the final essay is due). This is to give us an opportunity to workshop your idea before you get started. Many a zealous undergraduate has bitten off questions fit for a doctoral dissertation!*

Paper copies are preferred, but electronic submissions are acceptable if printing is impossible. If submitting electronically, please ensure that you email your essay to me (at GavinA@camosun.ca) before the deadline. The same late penalties apply whether you submit in-class or online.

- **Participation (10%)**

Please note that merely attending class is not the same thing as participating!

Every time that we meet, you'll have the opportunity to earn one participation point. Earning 10 of these points will get you full marks for participation.

The surest way to earn your participation point each week is to engage in in-class discussions. However, I recognize that there are multiple other ways to participate, and that some students face barriers to in-class participation. Hence, email exchanges, office hours appointments, or even a quick chat after class can all count towards participation. Since these things can be difficult to keep track of, participation grades are subject to a final adjustment before final grades are released.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

School of Arts & Science

Camosun College Lansdowne
School of Arts & Science | Fisher 104
3100 Foul Bay Rd
Victoria BC V8P 5J2

Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

General inquiries

Phone: 250-370-3298
Email: artsci@camosun.ca

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss

Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures”

(<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.