

# COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE:** PHIL-102: Intro. to Philosophy: Ideas  
**CLASS SECTION:** 001AB  
**TERM:** Winter 2024  
**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](#)

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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**NAME:** Dr. Thomas Doerksen  
**EMAIL:** doerksent@camosun.ca  
**OFFICE:** Y312  
**HOURS:** W/F 12:30-1:30

*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.*

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## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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This course explores significant philosophical topics in metaphysics, ethics, and political philosophy. Questions likely to be discussed include the following: What is the self? How should we live? Do we have free will? Does our existence have meaning? What makes a society just? Classic and contemporary texts will be studied.

### 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

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

1. Summarize some of the central philosophical issues across European, Indigenous, and Eastern traditions.
2. Engage critically with classical and contemporary philosophical theories.
3. Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reasons.
4. Identify the relevance of philosophical problems to everyday problems concerning beliefs, values, knowledge, personal reality, and the nature of reality.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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There is no textbook for this course. Please check D2L for electronic copies of all of your readings.

Additional recommended resources:

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

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

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

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Lecture: Wednesdays: 1:30pm – 3:20pm (E346)  
Seminars: Fridays: (Section A) 1:30pm – 2:20pm (E346)  
(Section B) 2:30pm – 3:20pm (E346)

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

| WEEK or DATE RANGE        | ACTIVITY or TOPIC  | OTHER NOTES |
|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| Week 1:<br>Jan 8–14       | <b>What is thinking? Part I: Describing Thought</b><br>John Dewey, <i>How We Think</i> , Chapter 1   |             |
| Week 2:<br>Jan 15–21      | <b>What is thinking? Part II: Questioning &amp; Cleverness</b><br>Plato's "Euthydemus," first quarter (271A–282E)  |             |
| Week 3:<br>Jan 22–28      | <b>What is thinking? Part III: Questioning continued</b><br>Plato's "Euthydemus," second quarter (283A–288D)   |             |
| Week 4:<br>Jan 29 – Feb 4 | <b>What is thinking? Part IV: Thoughtlessness &amp; Evil</b><br>Hannah Arendt, Excerpts from <i>The Life of the Mind</i><br>and <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil</i> |             |
| Week 5:<br>Feb 5–11       | <b>How should we live? Part I: Ritual &amp; Benevolence</b><br>Confucius, <i>The Analects</i>  |             |

| WEEK or DATE RANGE          | ACTIVITY or TOPIC  | OTHER NOTES |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Week 6:<br>Feb 12–18        | <b>W: Test 1</b><br>F: Confucius follow-up   | Test 1      |
| Week 7:<br>Feb 19–25        | <b>Reading Break</b>   |             |
| Week 8:<br>Feb 26 – March 3 | <b>How should we live? Part II: Art &amp; Imagination</b><br>Oscar Wilde, “The Decay of Lying,” first half (abridged)  |             |
| Week 9:<br>March 4–10       | <b>How should we live? Part III: Art continued</b><br>Oscar Wilde, “The Decay of Lying,” second half (abridged)  |             |
| Week 10:<br>March 11–17     | <b>What makes society just? Part I: Gift-Giving &amp; Nature</b><br>Robin Wall Kimmerer, “The Gift of Strawberries,” from <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i>   |             |
| Week 11:<br>March 18–24     | <b>W: Test 2</b><br>F: Contemporary politics   | Test 2      |
| Week 12:<br>March 25–31     | <b>What makes society just? Part II: Feminism</b><br>Elisabeth Badinter, “The Silent Revolution” and “The Ambivalence of Motherhood,” from <i>The Conflict: How Modern Motherhood Undermines the Status of Women</i> |             |
| Week 13:<br>April 1–7       | <b>What makes society just? Part III: Human Needs</b><br>Simone Weil, <i>The Need for Roots</i>  |             |
| Week 14:<br>April 8–13      | <b>Catch-up &amp; Review</b>   |             |
| April 15–23                 | <b>Final Exam</b> (scheduled by college)   | Final Exam  |

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 noticed is required. Deadlines scan 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 Writing Assignments | 10%         |
| Test One                    | 25%         |
| Test Two                    | 25%         |
| Final Exam                  | 30%         |
| Class Community             | 10%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>100%</b> |

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](#) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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1. The tests in this course will be based on study questions that will require paragraph answers (100 words). The study questions will be handed out in three sets, a few weeks before each exam. There will be 2 – 4 questions for each reading. The tests will be cumulative.
2. There is a one hour seminar each week. Half the class is registered for Seminar A, the other half of the class is registered for Seminar B. Please check your registration to find out which seminar is yours.
3. The work in the seminar includes short hand-written assignments. Please bring paper and a pencil or pen (blue or black). These assignments will only be accepted in class; there are no make up seminar assignments. If you miss, or are going to miss, your seminar you may attend the other seminar that week. For full marks at least ten seminar assignments must be submitted.
4. I have used the term “Class Community” instead of the more traditional ‘seminar participation’ because the term ‘participation’ does not sufficiently emphasize the importance of listening and presence for the success of our seminars. It is important that students contribute the discussion. It is equally important that students are present and listening.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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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

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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/>.

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Academic Advising

<http://camosun.ca/advising>

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Accessible Learning

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

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Counselling

<http://camosun.ca/counselling>

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Career Services                     | <a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>                           |
| Financial Aid and Awards            | <a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>           |
| Help Centres (Math/English/Science) | <a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>           |
| Indigenous Student Support          | <a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>               |
| International Student Support       | <a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>       |
| Learning Skills                     | <a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>       |
| Library                             | <a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a> |
| Office of Student Support           | <a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>                             |
| Ombudsperson                        | <a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>                       |
| Registration                        | <a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>           |
| Technology Support                  | <a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>                             |
| Writing Centre                      | <a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>       |

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](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto: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.