

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-290-Special Topics in Philosophy: Stoicism & The Art of Living
CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Fall 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to Face

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Philip Puszczalowski

EMAIL: puszczalowskip@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Lansdowne: Y 312

HOURS: Tuesdays: 1:30 pm-2:20 pm (Or by appointment)

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

This course is an introduction to selected topics or problems in philosophy. The topics and approach may vary from term to term. Please check with the department or instructor for information about the current course.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reason.
- Identify major themes and arguments relating to the course topic.
- Analyze, assess, compare and develop nuanced arguments concerning the issues central to the topic of the course.
- Demonstrate skills in written and oral communication.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

(a) **Required Text:** Epictetus (2014). *Discourses, Fragments, Handbook*. Robin Hard (trans). Oxford University Press.

(b) **Required Text:** Marcus Aurelius (2011). *Meditations*. Robin Hard (trans). Oxford University Press.

(c) **Required Text:** Seneca (2008). *Dialogues and Essays*. John Davie (trans). Oxford University Press.

(d) Other readings are posted or linked on the class D2L webpage.

NOTE: Open-source resources for the required texts will also be posted on D2L.

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

Lecture: Tuesdays: 2:30 pm – 4:20 pm. (F 334)
Seminars: Thursdays: **Seminar A** - 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm. (Y 217)
Seminar B - 3:30 pm – 4:20 pm. (Y 217)

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
Lecture #1 Sept 3 (Lecture) Sept 5 (Seminar)	Introduction to Stoicism L: John Sellars – “What is Stoicism?” (D2L); Jules Evans – “Getting Practical Philosophy into the Classroom” (D2L). S: Icebreaker & Discussion of Stoic practice and seminar instructions.	
Lecture #2 Sept 10 (Lecture) Sept 12 (Seminar)	Living in Agreement with Nature L: Epictetus – <i>Handbook</i> 1-19 S: The Control Exercise	
Lecture #3 Sept 17 (Lecture) Sept 19 (Seminar)	Understanding Ephemerality L: Seneca – Introduction (p. vii-xxvii); Seneca – “On the Shortness of Life”; Marcus Aurelius (MA) – Introduction (p. vii-xxiv), Books 2, 3, 9:19. S: Impermanence of Things Exercise	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Lecture #4 Sept 24 (Lecture) Sept 26 (Seminar)	Stoic Philanthropy and Cosmopolitanism L: Patrick Ussher – “The Stoics on the Community of Humankind” (D2L); Michel Daw – “What Motivates a Stoic?” (D2L); MA, Books 4:3; 6:39; 7:5, 19, 22; 8:26; 11:9. S: The Circles of Hierocles Exercise	
Lecture #5 Oct 1 (Lecture) Oct 3 (Seminar)	Premeditation of Adversity L: MA – Books 4, 5, 6; Negative Visualization Exercise S: TEST #1	Oct 3 - TEST #1 During Seminar
Lecture #6 Oct 8 (Lecture) Oct 10 (Seminar)	Stoic Advice on Dealing with Insults and Anger L: Seneca – “On Anger”: 1-13, 25-43; MA – Book 2:1; 9:42; Epictetus – <i>Handbook</i> 4, 5, 10, 20-28, 42. S: TBD	
Lecture #7 Oct 15 (Lecture) Oct 17 (Seminar)	The Stoic Character L: Epictetus – <i>Handbook</i> 28-41; Donald Robertson – “Stoics Are Not Unemotional!” (D2L); Jen Farren – “Stoicism and Star Trek” (D2L). S: Speak Less About Yourself Exercise	
Lecture #8 Oct 22 (Lecture) Oct 24 (Seminar)	Stoic Tranquility L: Seneca – “On the Tranquillity of the Mind” S: The Wand of Hermes Exercise	
Lecture #9 Oct 29 (Lecture) Oct 31 (Seminar)	The Nature of the Good L: Christopher Gill – “Core Ideas of Stoic Ethics in Marcus Aurelius” (D2L); MA – Books 9, 10. S: The View from Above Exercise.	
Lecture #10 Nov 5 (Lecture) Nov 7 (Seminar)	Fatalism and Letting Go of the Past L: MA – Book 11, 12; The <i>Amor Fati</i> Exercise S: TEST #2	Nov 7 - TEST #2 During Seminar
Lecture #11 Nov 12 (Lecture) Nov 14 (Seminar)	The Discipline of Action L: Epictetus – <i>Handbook</i> 43-52; Donald Robertson – “A Simplified Modern Approach to Stoicism” (D2L); Antonia Macaro – “What Can the Stoics Do For Us?” (D2L); S: The Reserve Clause Exercise	
Lecture #12 Nov 19 (Lecture) Nov 21 (Seminar)	The Discipline of Judgment L: Kevin Kennedy – “The Greatest of All Struggles” (D2L); TBD; S: The Exercise of Physical Definition	
Lecture #13 Nov 26 (Lecture) Nov 28 (Seminar)	The Happy Life L: Seneca – “On the Happy Life” S: TBD	
Lecture #14 Dec 3 (Lecture) Dec 5 (Seminar)	Final Exam Review L: Final Exam Review S: TBD	

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 can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>(a) Lecture/Seminar Participation I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for providing me evidence that you are. This evidence can come in many forms, such as attending and participating in the seminar/class and its discussions, visiting me in office hours to discuss course material, or sending me an email with a good idea or question when one comes to you. Doing the scheduled readings are essential preparation!</p>	<p>10% Total 10 at 1% each</p>
<p>(b) Stoic Journal Exercises Throughout each week of the course, you will need to work through that week's stoic exercise. Each exercise is due during the Thursday seminar. Further instructions TBA.</p>	<p>30% Total 10 at 3% each Graded as Pass/Fail</p>
<p>(c) Tests There will be 2 tests. The first test will test you on Lectures #1-4. The second test will test you on Lectures #5-9. Further instructions TBA. 1. Test #1 – October 3rd (During Seminar) 2. Test #2 – November 7th (During Seminar)</p>	<p>30% Total 2 at 15% each</p>
<p>(d) Final Exam (Cumulative) – Scheduled by the College.</p>	<p>30% Total</p>
<p>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. https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf</p>	<p>TOTAL 100%</p>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

(a) Missing Classes

If you miss a class due to illness or some other reason, it is not necessary to notify me, **unless** a test is missed. If classes are missed, it is the student's responsibility to find out from another student what was covered or check D2L and the course outline.

(b) Missed Tests

Make up tests will be permitted only in cases of illness or personal crisis.

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 camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

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 Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

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 (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

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 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 Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

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 <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

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.

