

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities Department**

**Phil 100-03, Introduction to Philosophy
Winter 2003**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff
Office hours:
Location: Ewing 250
Phone: 370-3508
e-mail: bannikof@camosun.bc.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

This introduction to analytic philosophy will focus on two of the founding fathers of philosophy. We begin by studying two of Plato's ancient dialogues, the *Apology* and *Euthyphro*. Our examination of Plato and Socrates will reveal to students both that philosophy requires a method of investigation and that there is an aim to the investigation: the acquisition of knowledge. We will pick up this theme with Descartes, the founder of modern philosophy. The seminar portion of the course is dedicated to a practical study of informal logic that will sharpen critical thinking skills.

3. Required Materials

Texts:

1. Plato: *The Last Days of Socrates*
2. Descartes: *Meditations and Other Metaphysical Writings*

Other

1. Course-pack: "Handout: Philosophy 100, Sandy Bannikoff"
2. A small duo-tang or binder for the course-pack

4. Course Content and Schedule

A. Lecture Schedule

Week One

January 7: Administration and General Introduction

January 9: How to Prepare Answers to the Study Questions

Week Two

January 14: Plato's *Apology*

January 16: Socrates

Reading * Plato's *Apology*, in The Last Days of Socrates, (pg. 37-67)

Week Three

January 21: Ancient Greece, Introduction to Plato's *Euthyphro*

January 23: *Euthyphro*, Introduction and Section A

Reading * Guthrie, "Greek ways of thinking" (in your coursepack)

* Plato's *Euthyphro*, in The Last Days of Socrates (pg. 7-27)

Week Four

January 28: *Euthyphro*, Section B

January 30: *Euthyphro*, Section C

Reading * *Euthyphro* (pg. 7-27)

Exam preparation * Guthrie, "Greek ways of thinking"

* Plato's *Apology* and *Euthyphro*

Week Five

February 4: Plato's Theory of Forms

February 6: **Exam One**

Readings * Exam preparation

* Peruse Descartes

Week Six

February 11: Introducing: Descartes

February 13: Reading Break

Readings * Descartes' *Meditations*, Introductory Material: Letter of Dedication, Preface to the Reader, Summary (pg. 8-17)

Week Seven

February 18: Descartes, Meditation One

February 20: Descartes, Meditation Two

Readings * Meditation One (pg. 18-22)

* Meditation Two (pg. 23-30)

Week Eight

February 25: Descartes, Meditation Three

February 27: Descartes' First Argument for the Existence of God, Meditation Three
Reading * Meditation Three (pg. 30-43)

Week Nine

March 4: Descartes, Meditation Five

March 6: Descartes, Meditation Six
Readings * Meditation Five (pg. 51-57) and Meditation Six (pg 57-70)

Week Ten

March 11: **Exam Two**

March 13: Writing Philosophy
Readings * Graybosch, The Philosophy Student Writer's Manual (Coursepack)

Week Eleven

March 18: Star Trek Interlude: "Body and Soul"

March 20: Introduction to Moral Philosophy

Week Twelve

March 25: Calhoun, I. The Integrated-Self Picture of Integrity

March 27: Calhoun, II. The Identity Picture of Integrity

March 27: Writing Assignment Due: Star Trek

Readings * Calhoun, "Standing for Something" (Coursepack)

Week Thirteen

April 1: Calhoun, III. The Clean-Hands Picture of Integrity

April 3: Calhoun, IV. Integrity as a Social Virtue

Readings * Calhoun, "Standing for Something" (Coursepack)

Week Fourteen

April 8: V. Standing for Something

April 10: Last Class, First Draft of Final Paper Due

Readings * Calhoun, "Standing for Something" (Coursepack)

Exam Period: Final Paper Due: by noon on Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

Seminar Scheduling

Week One: Basic Concepts

Week Two: Basic Concepts

Due Assignment 1. Basic concepts

Week Three:

Fallacies of Ambiguity

Due Assignment 2. Explain and provide an example of each of two fallacies of ambiguity

Week Four:

Fallacies of Presupposition

Due Assignment 3. Explain and provide an example of each of three fallacies of presupposition.

Week Five: Question Period

Week Six:

Causal Fallacies

Due Assignment 4. Explain and provide an example of each of two causal fallacies.

Week Seven:

Fallacies of Relevance

Due Assignment 5: Explain and provide an example of each of three fallacies of relevance.

Week Eight:

Statistical Fallacies

Due Assignment 6: Explain and provide an example of each of two statistical fallacies.

Week Nine:

Class Examples: Causal Fallacies, Fallacies of Relevance, and Statistical Fallacies

Week Ten:

Question Period

Week Eleven:

In-class Exercise: Russell on Induction

Week Twelve:

In-class Exercise: Hume on Personal Identity

Week Thirteen:

In-class Exercise: Hume on Cause

Week Fourteen

Writing Workshop

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

A. Seminar Assignments.....	20%
B. Exams 1. In-class exam....	20%
2. In-class exam.....	20%
C. Papers 1. Star Trek Paper.....	20%
2. Final Paper.....	20%

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95–100%	B = 75-79%	D = 50-59%
A = 90-94%	B- = 70-74%	F = 0.0-49%
A- = 85-89%	C+ = 65-69%	
B+ = 80-84%	C = 60-64%	

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed throughout the Course

A. Study Questions: To make the best use of these sets of study questions, students should read the texts with the study questions in mind and then prepare an answer to each question.

Questions on the *Apology*

1. Does Socrates strike you as sincere or sarcastic? Why?
2. Is there any way that Socrates could have carried out a successful defence?

Questions on *Euthyphro*

1. How does Socrates deal with Euthyphro's claims to religious knowledge?
2. What is the difference between 'essence' and 'attribute'? How is this distinction relevant to the arguments in the dialogue?
3. Summarize the argument Socrates presents against Euthyphro's definition of 'holy' as 'that which is agreeable to the gods'.
4. Does Euthyphro's claim that religious approval *makes* an action morally right, or does he claim that the gods would never approve of an action unless it were morally right? Why is this distinction relevant to the arguments in the dialogue?

Questions on *Meditations on First Philosophy*

1. What is methodological doubt and what is its purpose?
2. What are the two main hypotheses that Descartes employs in his methodological doubt?
3. How does Descartes justify the claim that the solid wax and the melted wax are the same piece of wax? Why is this example important?
4. Summarise Descartes first argument for the existence of God.
5. Summarize Descartes' second argument for the existence of God. Include a statement of what kind of argument this is.
6. How do the arguments concerning the existence of God relate to epistemology?

B. On the 'Net

1. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
2. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

