

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

**Phil 102-01, Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2003**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff
Office hours: 12:30 – 1:30, Monday and Wednesday
Location:
Phone: 370-3508
e-mail: bannikof@camosun.bc.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify and criticise perspectives and arguments that belong to the following areas of philosophy: personal identity, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, and religion. Students will also acquire a set of rules and apply them to evaluate argumentative essays. Finally, by applying the rules and the knowledge gleaned from the readings, students will be able to write philosophical evaluations.

3. Required Materials

Texts:

1. Traversing Philosophical Boundaries, Second Edition, Ed. Max O. Hallman
2. A Rulebook for Arguments, Third Edition, Anthony Weston

4. Course Content and Schedule

The first two hours of each class will be devoted to articles in the Hallman text. The last hour of each class will be spent studying the Rulebook by Weston. Below is the schedule of readings for both the lecture (first two hours) and the seminar (last hour). It looks like a lot. However, no reading is more than ten pages, many are less than five, and each selection has a page or two of introduction. Read the introductions as they provide some historical context, a brief bio of the author, and a summary of the selection, all of which will help.

Week One: Introduction

July 2

Hallman: Introduction (xiii – xix)

Weston: Introduction (ix – xiv)

Week Two: Self, Mind, and Body

July 7

Chapter One, Introduction (1-6)

1. Dialogue with Death, Upanishads (6)
3. The Questions of King Milinda on the Self, Buddhist Scripture (16)
4. There is no Personal Identity, Hume (20)

Seminar: I. Short Arguments (Weston, 1-8)

July 9

5. A Dialogue on Immortality, Schopenhauer (24)
7. Of the Real Distinction between Mind and Body, Descartes (41)
9. Divided Minds and the Nature of Persons, Parfit (58)

Seminar: VIII. Argumentative Essay (Weston, 59-63)

Recommended: 6. The Nature of the Soul and Its Relation to the Body, Plato (28)

Week Three: Creation and Reality

July 14

Chapter Two, Introduction (115-119)

7. The Myth of the Cave, Plato (144)
8. The Way of the Universe, Lao-Tzu (148)
11. The Monadology, Leibniz (162)

Seminar: III. Arguments by Analogy (Weston, 19-21)

July 16

TEST ONE (20%)

12. An Introduction to Metaphysics, Bergson (168)

Seminar: II. Arguments by Example (Weston, 10-17)

Week Four: Knowledge and Truth

July 21

Chapter Three, Introduction (191-195)

2. Principles of Human Knowledge, Berkeley (210)
3. The Fixation of Belief, Peirce (216)
7. Truth and Existence, Jaspers (235)

Seminar: IV. Arguments from Authority (Weston, 24-30)

July 23

10. A Dialogue on Dogmatism and Truth, Buddhist Scriptures (268)
14. Doubts concerning the Possibility of Knowledge, Hume (283)
15. The Elimination of Metaphysics, Ayer (291)

Seminar: Test Preparation

Week Five: Ethics

July 28 TEST TWO (30%)

Chapter Four, Introduction (299-305)

1. The Proper Function of Man and Its Relation to the Good Life, Aristotle (305)
2. On Human Goodness, Mencius (312)
4. The Principle of Utility, Bentham (322)

Seminar: V. Arguments about Causes (Weston, 32-38)

July 30

6. Ethics of Compassion, Schweitzer, (335)
9. Master Morality and Slave Morality, Neitzsche (347)
13. Transvaluation of Values: The End of Phallic Morality, Daly (371)

Seminar: VI. Deductive Arguments (Weston, 40-50)

Week Six: Politics

August 4: BC Day

August 6

Chapter Five, Introduction (391-397)

1. Crito, Plato (397)
2. The Social Contract, Rousseau (404)
5. We Are Practical Revolutionaries, Guevara (430)

Seminar: X. Fallacies (Weston, 71-73)

Test preparation

Week Seven

August 11 TEST THREE (40%)

9. On Liberty, Mill (460)
10. Principles of Non Violence, Gandhi (469)
16. Anarchism: What It Really Stands For, Goldman (512)

Seminar: VII. Argumentative Essay (Weston, 53-59)

Religion

August 13

Chapter Six, Introduction (521-527)

1. Confessions on the Nature of God, Saint Augustine (527)
4. I and Thou, Buber (549)
8. The Will to Believe, James (569)

Seminar: Appendix, Definition (Weston, 79-85)

August 18: Last Class

11. Gods, Wisdom (609)

TEST FOUR (10%)

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Exam One20%
 - Part I 10%
 - Part II 10%
2. Exam Two.....30%
 - Part I 10%
 - Part II 20%
3. Exam Three.....40%
 - Part I 10%
 - Part II 30%
4. Exam Four.....10%

Students are permitted to bring both of their texts and a dictionary to each exam. The first three exams will have the same structure. Part I of each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Part II of each exam will require paragraph answers. There are two sources for the questions in Part II: Hallman’s *Questions for Reading*, which are listed before each selection; and questions that relate the rules in the Weston’s rulebook to the selections in the Hallman text. The latter questions will be presented and discussed in the seminar portion of the class. Exam four will consist of one question requiring a 2-3 paragraph answer.

You may certainly prepare your answers ahead of time; but what is marked will be written at the exam. An expectation of progress is built into the weighting of the exams: as you become more proficient, your answers are worth more.

If you miss an exam, you must contact me, if at all possible, within 48 hours. If arrangements for a make-up are required, it must be written during my office hours as soon as possible and absolutely not later than 2 weeks after the date of the missed exam.

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

Reading: Reading philosophy requires very careful attention. Expect to read the articles more than once. In fact, it is not unusual to read a piece of philosophy over and over again. It is worth the time. The best thing to do is spend the time it takes to read carefully – which means looking up words in the dictionary, taking notes, etc. Try to not get behind; philosophy, generally speaking, cannot be crammed.

A very good philosophy dictionary: Martin, Robert M. The Philosopher’s Dictionary Broadview

Press, 1998. (not expensive, available at Bolen Books)

On the 'net: Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy