

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

**Phil 100-01, Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2003**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff
Office hours: Monday - Thursday
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 these themes with Descartes, the founder of modern philosophy. The seminar portion of the course is dedicated to fallacies. In other words, the seminar is 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"

4. Course Content and Schedule

A. Lecture Schedule

May 5

Administration and General Introduction
How to Study Philosophy

May 7

Plato's *Apology*
Socrates

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

May 12

Introduction to Plato's *Euthyphro*
Euthyphro, Introduction and Section A

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

May 14

Euthyphro, Section B
Euthyphro, Section C

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

Exam preparation * Plato's *Apology* and *Euthyphro*

May 19

Victoria Day, No Classes

May 21

Plato's Theory of Forms
Exam Preparation

Readings * Exam preparation
* Peruse Descartes

May 26

Exam One

Introducing: Descartes

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

May 28

Descartes, Meditation One
Descartes, Meditation Two

Readings * Meditation One (pg. 18-22)
* Meditation Two (pg. 23-30)

June 2

Descartes, Meditation Three

Descartes' First Argument for the Existence of God, Meditation

Reading * Meditation Three (pg. 30-43)

June 4

Descartes, Meditation Five

Descartes Second Argument for the Existence of God

Readings * Meditation Five (pg. 51-57)

June 9**Exam Two**

Descartes, Meditation Six

The role of objection and reply in philosophy

Readings * Meditation Six (pg. 57-70)

June 11 - Objection

Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth

Published Objections

Readings * Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth

(Focus on the letters from Elizabeth pg. 147-166)

* Objections and Replies

(Focus on the objections, pg. 71-104)

FRIDAY JUNE 13TH Writing Assignment Due: Objection**June 16 - Reply**

Descartes Correspondence to Henry Moore

Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth

Readings * Descartes to Henry Moore (pg. 167-180)

* Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth

(Focus on the letters from Descartes, pg. 147-166)

June 18

Published Replies

General Conclusions

Readings* Objections and Replies

(Focus on the replies, pg. 71-104)

FRIDAY JUNE 20TH Writing Assignment Due: Reply

Seminar Scheduling

May 5

Introduction: Arguments and Fallacies

May 7

Fallacies of Ambiguity

Equivocation, Composition, Division

May 12

Fallacies of Presupposition

False Dilemma, Erroneous Existence

Inferences, Erroneous Substitution

May 14

Quiz: Fallacies of Ambiguity and the first three Fallacies of Presupposition

May 19

Victoria Day, No Classes

May 21

Fallacies of Presupposition

Slippery Slope, Begging the Question

May 26

Fallacies of Relevance

Appeal to Pity, Appeal to Force, Ad Hominem, Argument from Ignorance

May 28

Fallacies of Relevance

Appeal to Authority, Ad Populum, Irrelevant Conclusion

June 2

Quiz: All the Fallacies of Presupposition and Relevance

June 4

Causal Fallacies

Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc, Confusing Causation with Correlation, Hypothesis Contrary to Fact

June 9

Statistical Fallacies

Irrelevant Figures, Changing Basis Classes, Gambler's Fallacy

June 11

Descartes: Objections and Replies

June 16

Quiz: Causal and Statistical Fallacies

June 18

Monty Python, "I'd like to buy an argument"

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Plato Exam.....25%
2. Descartes Exam.....25%
3. Average of three
Seminar Quizzes... ..25%
4. Writing Assignments
 - Objection.....13%
 - Reply.....12%

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. Summarize one of the arguments that Socrates presents against Meletus.
2. What is the reasoning by which Socrates justifies his refusal to call witnesses in his own defence?

Questions on *Euthyphro*

1. What does Socrates do when Euthyphro claims to have religious knowledge? How does this fit with the practice of philosophy that Socrates described in the *Apology*?
2. What is the difference between 'essence' and 'attribute'? How is this distinction relevant to the *Euthyphro*?
3. Summarize the argument Socrates presents against Euthyphro's second definition of 'holy'.
4. Why is Euthyphro's claim that the gods would never approve of an action unless it were morally right so important?

Questions on *Meditations on First Philosophy*

1. What are the two main hypotheses that Descartes employs in his methodological doubt? Why would anyone adopt these hypotheses?
2. 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?
3. Summarise Descartes first argument for the existence of God.
4. Summarize Descartes' second argument for the existence of God. Include a statement of what kind of argument this is.
5. 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

