

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

**Phil 100-03, Introduction to Philosophy
Winter 2004**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff

Office hours: Monday 12:30 - 1:20

Thursday 5:00-5:50

Tuesday 4:30 - 5:20

Friday 12:30- 1:20

Wednesday: 9:30-10:20

Location: office, Y320

Phone: 370-3508

e-mail: bannikof@camosun.bc.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe fundamental philosophical problems, along with the classical philosophical answers to these problems.
2. Distinguish among various philosophical theories.
3. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
4. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses

3. Required Materials

Texts:

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

Other

1. On Reserve in the Library: Philosophy 100, Sandy Bannikoff
(Students **must** photocopy this item.)

4. Course Content and Schedule

A. Lecture Schedule

Week One

January 6

Administration and General Introduction

January 8

Ancient Greece

Week Two

January 13

Plato's *Apology*

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

January 15

Plato's *Apology*

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

Week Three

January 20

Philosophy: Basic Concepts

January 22

Introduction to Plato's *Euthyphro*,

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

Week Four

January 27

Euthyphro, First and Second definition of piety

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

January 29

Euthyphro, Third definition of piety

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

Week Five

February 3: Fallacy Quiz #1

Euthyphro, Socratic suggestion and the dialogue's conclusion

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

February 5:

Plato's Theory of Forms

- Readings * Exam preparation
- * Peruse Descartes

Week Six**February 10 :Plato Exam****February 12: Reading Break****Week Seven****February 17**

Introducing Descartes

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

February 19

Descartes, First Meditation *Things which can be called into Doubt*

- Reading * Descartes (pg. 18-22)

Week Eight**February 24**

Descartes, Second Meditation *The Nature of the Human Mind, and that it is better known than the Body*

- Reading * Descartes (pg. 23-30)

February 26

Descartes, Third Meditation *The Existence of God*

- Reading * Descartes (pg. 30-43)

Week Nine**March 2: Fallacy Quiz #2**

Descartes, Third Meditation, Descartes' Argument for the Existence of God

- Reading * Descartes (pg. 30-43)

March 4

Descartes, Fourth Meditation *Truth and Falsehood*

- Reading * Descartes (pg.44-51)

Week Ten**March 9**

Descartes, Fifth Meditation *The Essence of Material Things. Another Discussion of God's Existence*

Reading * Descartes (pg. 51-57)

March 11

Descartes, Sixth Meditation *The Existence of Material Things, and the Real Distinction between Mind and Body*

Readings * Descartes (pg. 57-70)

Week Eleven

March 16: Descartes Exam

March 18

Descartes, First Objections (Johan deKater) and Descartes' Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 71-76)

Week Twelve

March 23

Descartes, Second Objections (Marin Mersenne) and Descartes' Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 77-86)

March 25

Descartes, Third Objections (Thomas Hobbes) and Descartes' Replies

Descartes, Fourth Objections (Antione Arnauld) and Descartes' Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 87-92)

Week Thirteen

March 30: Objection Assignment Due

Descartes, Fifth Objections (Pierre Gassendi) and Descartes' Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 93-97)

April 1

Descartes, Sixth Objections (Marin Mersenne) and Descartes Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 97-104)

Week Fourteen

April 6

Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria

Readings * Descartes (pg. 147-156)

April 8: Reply Assignment Due; Fallacy Quiz #3

Conclusions

Seminar Schedule

Week Two

Introduction: Arguments and Fallacies

Week Three

Fallacies of Ambiguity

Equivocation, Composition, Division

Week Four

Fallacies of Presupposition

False Dilemma, Erroneous Existence
Inferences, Erroneous Substitution

Week Five

Slippery Slope, Begging the Question

Week Six

Reading Break.

Week Seven

Fallacies of Relevance

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

Week Eight

Fallacies of Relevance

Appeal to Authority, Ad Populum,
Irrelevant Conclusion

Week Nine

Causal Fallacies

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

Week Ten

Deductive and Inductive Arguments

Week Eleven

Open to Seminar A and B: Videos

Week Twelve

Statistical Fallacies

Irrelevant Figures, Changing Basis
Classes, Gambler's Fallacy

Week Thirteen

Practice Quiz

Week Fourteen

Philosophy Surprise

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Plato Exam.....25%
2. Descartes Exam.....25%
3. Average of three
 Fallacy Quizzes.....20%
- Fallacy Examples.....5%
4. Writing Assignments
 Objection.....13%
- Reply.....12%

EXAMS

Each exam (one on Plato and one on Descartes) is worth 25% of the final grade. Each exam will consist of two parts: part one will consist of short answer questions; part two will require a paragraph answer to one of the study questions listed below. Exams must be written in either blue or black ink.

Students are permitted to bring only their text (Plato or Descartes) into an exam. Students may not have more than a few words written on each page of their text; however, there are only practical restrictions on underlining and highlighting.

If you miss an exam or a quiz you must contact me, if at all possible, within 48 hours. Make-ups will be permitted only in cases of confirmed illness or crisis. 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 or quiz.

FALLACIES

A fallacy is a logical mistake. Fallacy theory is a branch of informal logic. The work to be done for the seminar portion of this course is to learn 24 fallacies. It may seem a bit strange to devote a significant portion of an introductory course to teaching mistakes. However, the idea is that once you know what the mistakes are, you won't make them.

The average of three quizzes, for which students will be required to identify different kinds of arguments, is worth 20% of the final grade. 5% of the final grade will be earned by handing in 12 fallacy examples. The examples are due at the beginning of the lecture on the day you have seminar. In other words, fallacy examples from students in seminar A are due at 2:30 on Tuesdays, and fallacy examples from students in seminar B are due at 2:30 on Thursdays. The following conditions will be observed.

1. Students may hand in at most two fallacy examples each week.
2. Each example handed in must be of one of the fallacies to be discussed in seminar that week.
3. Late or early examples will never be accepted.

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95–100%
A = 90–94%
A- = 85–89%
B+ = 80–84%

B = 75–79%
B- = 70–74%
C+ = 65–69%
C = 60–64%

D = 50–59%
F = 0.0–49%

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

- A. Reading:** Reading philosophy requires very careful attention. Expect to read everything 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 you could do to succeed in this course is to 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.
- B. 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 a one paragraph answer to each question. I will discuss writing paragraphs in class.

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. How the setting of Plato's dialogue *Euthyphro* fit with the practice of philosophy that Socrates describes in the *Apology*?
2. What role does the distinction between 'essence' and 'attribute' have in the dialogue?
3. Summarize the argument Socrates presents against Euthyphro's second definition of 'holy'.
4. Why is Euthyphro's claim at 10d so important?

Questions on *Meditations on First Philosophy*

1. What conclusions does Descartes reach in Meditation One?
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?
6. What is the 'real distinction' argument and why is it important?

