

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities Department
Phil 102-03, 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. Summarize the central philosophical issues within both the Continental (i.e., French and German) and Analytic (i.e., British) traditions.
2. Outline critical objections to both classical and contemporary philosophical theories.
3. Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reasons.
Identify the relevance of philosophical problems to everyday problems concerning beliefs and values, knowledge, personal identity, and the nature of reality.

3. Required Materials

Coursepack, available in the bookstore 1. Philosophy 102-03, and 102-04, Sandy Bannikoff

4. Course Content and Schedule

Week One: Philosophy

Readings William James. "On Teaching Philosophy in Our Colleges"

Immanuel Kant. "Introduction" to Kant's Prolegomena

January 5 Administration, Introduction to readings: James and Kant

January 9 Lecture: James and Kant

Seminar Discussion on James and Kant: Seminar B, January 9

Seminar A, January 12

Week Two: Epistemology

Reading: Plato's *Meno*

January 12 Introduction to Reading: Plato

January 16 Lecture: Plato's *Meno*

Seminar Discussion on Plato: Seminar B, January 16
Seminar A, January 19

Week Three: Action

Reading: Mohandas K. Gandhi, "Passive Resistance"

January 19 Introduction to Reading: Gandhi

January 23 Lecture: Gandhi, "Passive Resistance"

Seminar Discussion on Gandhi: Seminar B, January 23
Seminar A, January 26

Week Four: Ethics

Reading: G.E.M. Anscombe, "Two Kinds of Error in Action"

January 26 Introduction to Reading: Anscombe

January 30 Lecture: Elizabeth Anscombe, "Two Kinds of Error in Action"

Seminar Discussion on Anscombe: Seminar B, January 30
Seminar A, February 2

Week Five: Free Will

Reading: Raymond Smullyan. "Is God a Taoist?"

February 2 Introduction to Reading: Smullyan

February 6 Lecture: Raymond Smullyan. "Is God a Taoist?"

Seminar Discussion on Smullyan, Open to Seminar A and B, February 6

Week Six: Exam

February 9 :Mid-Term Exam

February 13: Reading Break

Week Seven: Religion

Reading: John Wisdom. "Gods"

February 16 Introduction to Reading: Wisdom

February 20 Lecture: John Wisdom, "Gods"

Seminar Discussion on Wisdom, Seminar B, February 20
Seminar A, February 23

Week Eight: Politics

Reading: Emma Goldman. "Anarchism: What it Really Stands For"

February 23 Introduction to Reading: Goldman

February 27 Lecture: Emma Goldman. "Anarchism: What it Really Stands For"

Seminar Discussion on Goldman, Seminar B, February 27

Seminar A, March 1

Week Nine: Time

Reading: Jorge Luis Borges. "A New Refutation of Time"

(Note: The reading for next week is not in the coursepack. It is on reserve in the library. So, you have to go to the library and photocopy the Voltaire selection.)

March 1 Introduction to Reading: Borges

March 5, Lecture: Jorge Luis Borges. "A New Refutation of Time"

Seminar Discussion on Borges, Seminar B, March 5

Seminar A, March 8

Week Ten: Criticism

Reading: Voltaire, selections from Philosophical Dictionary (on reserve)

March 8 Introduction to readings: Voltaire

March 12 Lecture: Voltaire's Philosophical Dictionary

Seminar Discussion on Voltaire, Seminar B March 12

Seminar A March 15

Week Eleven: Language

Reading: Hilary Putnam. "Meaning and Reference"

March 15 Introduction to Putnam

March 19 Lecture: Hilary Putnam. "Meaning and Reference"

Seminar Discussion on Putnam, Seminar B March 19

Seminar A March 22

Week Twelve: Analytic Philosophy

Reading: Ray Monk. "What is Analytical Philosophy"

March 22 Introduction to Monk

March 26 Lecture: Ray Monk. "What is Analytical Philosophy"

Seminar Discussion on Monk, Seminar B March 26

Seminar A March 29

Week Thirteen: Philosophy

Readings William James. “On Teaching Philosophy in Our Colleges”
Immanuel Kant. “Introduction” to Kant’s Prolegomena

March 29 Introduction to readings: James and Kant

April 2 Lecture: James and Kant

Seminar Discussion on James and Kant: Seminar B April 2

Seminar A April 5

Week Fourteen: Review

April 5

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Mid-term Exam,25%
2. Final Exam,35%
3. Average of Three one page papers.....35%
4. Seminar Participation.....15%

Exams

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 – the final exam will require that two study questions be answered. Exams must be written in either blue or black ink.

Students are permitted to bring only their course pack into an exam. Students may not have more than a few words written on each page; however, there are only practical restrictions on underlining and highlighting.

If you miss an exam or a due date you must contact me, if at all possible, within 48 hours. Make-ups and late papers will be permitted only in cases of confirmed illness or crisis and must be dealt with no later than 2 weeks after the missed date.

Papers

Three one page papers are required for this course. The papers will be marked on the basis of accuracy, clarity, grammar and coherence. Each paper must be one full, typed page that is double spaced in 12pt. font. No quotes are permitted. Identify yourself by including only your student number, course and section on each paper. I consider meeting these requirements as part of the ‘accuracy’ requirement of the assignment. Each paper will be marked out of 20, and the average of the three papers is worth 35% of the final grade.

Due Dates

First Paper: between January 19 - 30.

Second Paper: between February 9 - 27.

Third Paper: between March 8 - 31.

Topics

Since the papers are very short, the topics must be very specific. Each paper must be written on a topic that is covered during the month the paper is due. Specifically, each paper will be a critical review of one aspect of a paper that was discussed in seminar. (What constitutes a 'critical review' will be discussed in class.)

Seminar

Seminar participation is worth 15% of the final grade. Earning this 15% involves attending each seminar prepared to discuss philosophy.

In order to provide some structure to the seminar discussions, and the seminar grade, the following system will be followed. Students are required to bring a short, typed comment (at most three lines) to each seminar. The idea is that the comments will serve as a basis for discussion. Beginning at the bottom of the class list and proceeding in order continuously, I will call upon students to read and hand in their comment. What each comment is worth, in terms of the final grade, depends on how many times we make it through the class list. Some days, I imagine, we will get through quite a few names and other days, we won't. To earn the full 15%, students need only hand in a comment each time they are called upon to do so and generally *genuinely* participate in the seminar through both contributing to the discussion and demonstrating interest.

SUGGESTION: You may choose your own paper topic by submitting a possible thesis statement as a comment for discussion.

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. 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.

