

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

**Phil 100-04, Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2004**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff

Office hours:

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

September 8

Administration and General Introduction

Week Two

September 13

Ancient Greece

Introduction to Plato's *Apology*

September 15

Plato's *Apology*

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

Week Three

September 20

Plato's *Apology*

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

September 22

Plato and Socrates

Introduction to Plato's *Euthyphro*

Week Four

September 27

Euthyphro, First and second definition of holy

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

September 29

Euthyphro, Third definition of holy and concluding section

Reading * Plato's *Apology*, and *Euthyphro* in The Last Days of Socrates, (pg. 7-27 and 37-67)

Week Five

October 4

Plato's *Euthyphro*

October 6

Plato's *Metaphysics*

Week Six

October 11: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

October 13: Plato Exam

Week Seven

October 18

Introducing Descartes

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

October 20

Descartes, First Meditation Things which can be called into Doubt

Reading * Descartes (pg. 18-22)

Week Eight

October 25

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

Reading * Descartes (pg. 23-30)

October 27

Descartes, Third Meditation The Existence of God

Reading * Descartes (pg. 30-43)

Week Nine

November 1: Informal Logic Test

Third Meditation, again

November 3

Descartes, Fourth Meditation *Truth and Falsehood*

Reading * Descartes (pg. 44-51)

Week Ten

November 8

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

Reading * Descartes (pg. 51-57)

November 10

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

Reading * Descartes (pg. 57-70)

Week Eleven

November 15

Descartes' *Meditations*

November 17

Objections and Replies

Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria

Week Twelve

November 22

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

Reading * Descartes (pg. 71-77)

November 24

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

Reading * Descartes (pg.77-86)

Week Thirteen

November 29

Third Objections (Thomas Hobbes) and Descartes' Replies

Fourth Objections (Antione Arnauld) and Descartes' Replies

Readings * (pg. 87-93)

December 1

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

Readings* Descartes (pg. 93-97)

Week Fourteen

December 6: Informal Logic Test

Descartes, Sixth Objections (Marin Mersenne) and Descartes Replies

Readings * Descartes (pg. 93-104)

December 8:

Criticism of Descartes' *Meditations*

Seminar Schedule

Week Two

Introduction: Informal Logic

Arguments

Terms: Argument/Explanation

Week Three

Terms: Analytic/Synthetic

Terms: Inductive/Deductive

Week Four

Terms: Syllogism

Valid Inference

Fallacies: Equivocation, Composition, Division

Week Five

Fallacies: False Dilemma, Erroneous

Existence Inferences, Erroneous

Substitution

Week Six

Fallacies: Slippery Slope, Begging the Question

Week Seven

Fallacies and Terms: Review

Practice Test

Week Eight

Informal Logic Test #1

Q&A

Week Nine

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

Terms: Valid/Invalid

Week Ten

Fallacies: Appeal to Authority, Ad Populum, Irrelevant Conclusion

Terms: Syntax/Semantics

Week Eleven

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

Terms: Sound/Unsound

Week Twelve

Fallacies: Irrelevant Figures, Changing Basis Classes,

Terms: Review

Week Thirteen

Fallacies: Hasty Generalization, Gambler's Fallacy

Week Fourteen

Informal Logic Test

Q&A

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1. Plato Exam.....25%
2. Descartes Exam.....25%
3. Informal Logic Tests.....25%
4. Writing Assignments.....25%

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 an essay-style 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.

INFORMAL LOGIC

The seminar portion of this course will be conducted during the last hour of each class. The purpose of the seminar is to introduce students to terms used when evaluating arguments in philosophy. The average of two tests will form 25% of the final grade.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two 500 word written assignments, both written on Descartes. Specifically, each piece will provide an account of one of the objections and replies that we study during the last third of the course. The average of these two assignments will form 25% of the final grade.

POLICY

As soon as you are aware that you either will miss a test or have missed a test: contact me. 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 that was missed.

Consider my office hours an invitation to discuss any problems or questions about philosophy, the course, writing, grades, etc.

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. Always 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.

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. Summarize the argument Socrates presents against Euthyphro's second definition of 'holy'.
3. What role does the distinction between 'essence' and 'attribute' have in the dialogue?
4. Why is the claim that Euthyphro agrees to 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?

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html