

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

**Phil 102-01, Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2004**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff
Office hours:
Location: office, Y320
Phone: 370-3508
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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

Course pack, available in the bookstore
1. Philosophy 102 Coursepack, Sandy Bannikoff 2004

4. Course Content and Schedule

September 9 Administration, General Introduction

Philosophy

Readings William James. "On Teaching Philosophy in Our Colleges"
Immanuel Kant. "Introduction" to Kant's Prolegomena

September 9 Introduction to readings

September 14 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on James and Kant: Seminar A, September 14
Seminar B, September 16

Epistemology

Reading: Plato's *Meno*

September 16 Introduction to Reading

September 21 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Plato: Seminar A, September 21
Seminar B, September 23

Political Action

Reading: Mohandas K. Gandhi, "Passive Resistance"

September 23 Introduction to Reading

September 28 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Gandhi: Seminar A, September 28
Seminar B, September 30

Ethics

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

September 30 Introduction to Reading

October 5 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Anscombe: Seminar A, October 5
Seminar B, October 7

Religious Belief

Reading: William James. "The Will to Believe"

October 7 Introduction to Reading

October 12 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on James: Seminar A, October 12
Seminar B, October 14

Reading: John Wisdom. "Gods"

October 14 Introduction to Reading

October 19 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Wisdom, Seminar A, October 19
Seminar B, October 21

Review: October 21

MidTerm: October 26

Politics

Reading: Emma Goldman. “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For”

October 28 Introduction to Reading

November 2 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Goldman, Seminar A, November 2

Seminar B, November 4

Free Will

Reading: Raymond Smullyan. “Is God a Taoist?”

November 4 Introduction to Reading

November 9 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Smullyan, Seminar A and B, November 9

November 11: Remembrance Day

Literature

Reading: Samuel Beckett Waiting for Godot: A Tragicomedy in Two Acts

(Note: There is no introductory lecture for this reading. Please have it read for class on Nov. 16)

November 16 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Beckett, Seminar A, November 16

Seminar B, November 18

Time

Reading: Jorge Luis Borges. “A New Refutation of Time”

November 18 Introduction to Reading

November 23 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Borges, Seminar A, November 23

Seminar B, November 25

Language

Reading: Hilary Putnam. “Meaning and Reference”

November 25 Introduction to Reading

November 30 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Putnam, Seminar A, November 30

Seminar B, December 2

Analytic Philosophy

Reading: Ray Monk. “What is Analytical Philosophy?”

December 2 Introduction to Reading

December 7 Lecture

Seminar Discussion on Monk, Seminar A, December 7

Seminar B, December 8

Philosophy

Readings William James. “On Teaching Philosophy in Our Colleges”

Immanuel Kant. “Introduction” to Kant’s Prolegomena

December 9 Lecture

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Mid-term Exam, | 20% |
| 2. Final Exam, | 35% |
| 3. Writing Assignments..... | 30% |
| 4. Seminar Participation..... | 15% |

Exams

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.

Writing Assignments

Students will write three 500 word article summaries. The due dates and topics are listed below. The average of the best two out of three will count as 30% of the final grade only if three writing assignments are handed in.

1. Due: October 14

Epistemology
Political Action
Ethics
Belief

2. Due: November 18

Religion
Politics
Free Will
Literature

3. Due: December 9

Time
Language
Analytic Philosophy

Seminar

Seminar participation is worth 10% of the final grade. Earning this 10% 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 typed question or comment (maximum 50 words) to each seminar. Each student will read and hand in their comment. These comments will then serve as the basis for discussion and the basis of the seminar grade.

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.

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