

School of Arts & Science
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
PHIL 100-section Introduction to Philosophy
Summer, 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor: Dr. James Atkinson
- (b) Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 – 1:00
- (c) Location: Young 312
- (d) Phone: 3950 Alternative Phone:
- (e) Email: atkinsonj@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website:

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Upon completion of this 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. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
- 3. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: *Classics in Western Philosophy*, Seventh Edition, Steven M. Cahn

- (b) Other

4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

Three Key Concepts:

Philosophy: The love of wisdom.

Metaphysics: The attempt to describe the ultimate nature of reality.

Epistemology: The attempt to determine the limits of knowledge.

Although this course is set up as a historical survey, the key concept that will link each philosopher we consider is the examination of philosophy in terms of metaphysics and epistemology.

Two questions we will attempt to elucidate:

What is the love of wisdom?

What is the relationship between wisdom and metaphysics?

Weeks 1 & 2 Ancient Philosophy

July 3rd

Introduction

What is philosophy?

Philosophical method – What is an argument? (deductive vrs inductive)

What is metaphysics?

The pre-Socratic philosophers and Plato

Plato:

What is the love of wisdom?

Symposium 201 – 212c (p.p. 98 – 105)

What is virtue?

How do we know wisdom?

Meno

July 8th

Plato:

What is the Good?

Republic Books I (sections), VI & VII

July 10th

Plato - cont.

Critique of Platonic forms:

Aristotle:

Posterior Analytics Book I 1-4, Book II - 19

Critique of Aristotle:

Sextus Empiricus *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*

Week 3 Rationalism

July 15th

***In Class Essays I**

Can reason lead to certainty (doubting self to God)?

Rene Descartes:

Meditations I, II & III (selections)

July 17th

***In Class Essays I**

Descartes cont.

Week 4 Empiricism

July 22nd

Rejection of Rationalism

What can we know beyond our senses?

David Hume:

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

July 24th

Hume – Enquiry cont.

Treatise on Human Nature, Book 1

Week 5 Idealism

July 29th

Waking the giant – attack on Hume

Synthesis of Rationalism and Empiricism

What can we know?

Immanuel Kant:

Critique of Pure Reason (Preface, p. 905 – Part I, p. 940)

August 31st

***In Class Essays II**

Kant - cont.

Sense certainty – further objections to Hume

G. W. F. Hegel:

Phenomenology of Spirit “Sense Certainty” (p.p. 1028 – 1032)

Weeks 6 & 7 Existentialism and Wittgenstein

August 5th

Existence over Essence

Soren Kierkegaard:

Concluding Unscientific Postscript

August 7th

Critique of Philosophy

Friedrich Nietzsche:
Twilight of the Idols

August 12th
Is it all a language game?
Ludwig Wittgenstein:
Philosophical Investigations

August 14th
Wittgenstein cont.
Albert Camus:
The Myth of Sisyphus

August 19th
In Class Essay III

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Quizzes – 25%

At the start of each class there will be a short quiz based on the assigned readings. If you miss a quiz there will *not* be an opportunity to write it at a later date. However, the lowest two scores will be disregarded.

(b) In Class Essays – 25% each

Due dates (subject to change): July 17th (Ancient Philosophy), July 31st (Rationalism and Empiricism), August 19th (Idealism, Existentialism and Wittgenstein)

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage Grade Description Grade Point

Equivalency 95-100 A+, 90-94, A 85-89 A-, 80-84 B+, 75-79 B, 70-74 B-, 65-69 C+
60-64 C, 50-59 D Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course

with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. 1 0-49 F Minimum level has not been achieved. 0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	Incomplete: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrolment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.) CW Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.
CW	Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

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

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, at Student Services or the College web site at [_ HYPERLINK "http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf" _camosun.ca_](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/policies/E-1.5.pdf).

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy which includes plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.