



COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Justine Noel
Office location: Young 312
Office hours: Tues., 10:30-11:30 am, Wed., 1:30-2:30 pm,
Thurs., 10:30-11:30 am, Fri., 12:30-2:30 pm
Phone: 250-370-3951
Email: noelju@camosun.bc.ca

Course Schedule

Lectures: Wednesdays, 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm. (Y-201)
Fridays, 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm. (Y-201)

Seminars: Group A: Wednesdays, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm. (Y-201)
Group B: Fridays, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm. (Y-201)

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should be able to

- a) explain the nature of fundamental philosophical problems
- b) demonstrate an understanding of some the classical philosophical answers to these problems
- c) describe the similarities and differences between various philosophical theories
- d) critically analyze an argument philosophically by assessing its strengths and weaknesses and then supporting one's own position with good reasons

Required Text: The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas, John Chaffee, 2nd edition

Basis of Student Assessment

- a) 2 in-class tests: 50% (25% each)
- b) final exam: 35% (date tba, Dec. final exam period)
- c) class participation and seminar group discussion: 10%
- d) quizzes: 5% (6 quizzes, one throwaway)

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?
Sept.9 – Why Study Philosophy? 1.1

Sept.11 – Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of Philosophy, 1.5
Seminar: Bertrand Russell, “The Value of Philosophy”, 1.6, The Search for a Meaningful Life, 1.7

Week 2: What is the Philosopher’s Way?

Sept.16 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1

Sept.18 – Socrates’ Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3, QUIZ #1

Seminar: Socrates’ Legacy, 2.5

Week 3: Do We Have Souls?

Sept.23 – Know Thyself? 3.1, The Soul is Immortal. 3.2 (p.95-100 only)

Sept.25 – Descartes’ Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.3

Seminar: video – “Is Mind Distinct from Body?” The Self is Consciousness, Locke, 3.4

Week 4: Who Are You?

Sept.30 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.5, **QUIZ #2**

Oct.2 – The Self is the Brain, 3.9, review for test #1

Seminar: Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.10, 3.11

Week 5: Are You Free?

Oct.7 – **TEST #1**

Oct.9 – Are You the Master of Your Fate? 4.1, Determinism, 4.2 (p.162-170 only)

Seminar: video – “Do We Have Freewill?”

Week 6: How Can We Know the Nature of Reality?

Oct.14 – What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, Plato’s Forms, 5.2

Oct.16 – Can Reality Be Known? Descartes, 5.4 (p.242-250 only), **QUIZ #3**

Seminar: Your Beliefs About the World, 5.5

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

Oct. 21 – Locke, 6.2 (p.274-277, p.280-285 only)

Oct. 23 – Berkeley, 6.3

Seminar: Hume, 6.4

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

Oct.28 – A Brief Survey of Major Religions (p.366-372)

Oct.30 – A Brief Survey of Major Religions cont., **QUIZ #4**

Seminar: God is a Human Projection (p.353-356), Religion is an Opiate (p.356-358), Religion reflects Patriarchy, (p.358-361)

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

Nov.4 – Does God Exist?, 7.4, (p.378-388 only) The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.391-392 only), review for test #2

Nov.6 – **TEST #2**

Seminar: video: “Does God Exist?”

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

Nov.11 – no class, Remembrance Day

Nov.13 – Your Moral Compass, 8.1, Ethical relativism, 8.2

Seminar: Ethical Absolutism, 8.3

Week 11: Why Should I be Moral?

Nov.18 – Egoism as a Moral Principle, 8.4

Nov.20 – Ayn Rand, from “The Virtue of Selfishness” (p.444-447), **QUIZ #5**
Seminar: Arguments Against Egoism, p.447-454

Week 12: What are Right Actions?

Nov.25 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Nov.27 – Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3
Seminar: Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.500-512 only)

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

Dec.2 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5 (p.518-530 only)
Dec.4 – Authenticity and Ethical Responsibility: Sartre (p.531-536), **QUIZ #6**
Seminar: video; “Existentialism”

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

Dec.9 – Simone de Beauvoir, (p.537-539), Camus, (p.539-542)
Dec.11 – Review for final exam
Seminar: Questions, extra help (optional)

Policy on missed tests: make-up tests will be permitted only in cases of illness or personal crisis. A make-up test will not be scheduled until proper documentation is provided.

Policy on missed quizzes: there are no make-ups for quizzes, and no exceptions will be made. Latecomers can still write the quiz, but not once quizzes have been collected.

Cell phones: students are not permitted to use cell phones in class. **Remember to TURN OFF your cell phone for class.**

Laptop computers may be used for note taking only - watching sports, videos, etc., playing music, online chatting, doing email and so on is not permitted in class.

Missing classes: if you miss a class due to illness, or some other reason, it is not necessary to notify me, **unless** a test is missed. There is no need to notify me if you miss a quiz. If classes are missed, it is the student’s responsibility to find out from another student what was covered.

Disruptive behaviour: while the instructor is speaking, students are not permitted to talk. Students who are unable to manage class etiquette will be asked to leave.

Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
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	<i>Incomplete:</i> 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	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment 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 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> 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.

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 camosun.ca.

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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED