

	<p>School of Arts & Science HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT</p> <p>PHIL 100-06 Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2009</p>
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COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dr. James Atkinson		
(b)	Office Hours:	Wednesday and Friday 4:20-4:50 (Office TBA)		
(c)	Location:	Wednesday and Friday 2:30-3:20 F 216 (Seminar TBA)		
(d)	Phone:	370-3392	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	atkinsonj@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

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

Text: *Classics in Western Philosophy*, Seventh Edition, Steven M. Cahn

4. Course Content and Schedule

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?

Philosophy 100: Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Weeks 1, 2 & 3 Ancient Philosophy

September 9th – 11th

Introduction

What is philosophy?

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

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 wisdom?

Apology 17 – 25 (p.p. 29 – 33)

September 16th – 18th

What is virtue?

How do we know wisdom?

Meno

Plato:
What is the Good?
Republic Books I (sections), VI & VII

September 23rd – 25th

Plato - cont.
Republic Books I (sections), VI & VII

Critique of Platonic forms:

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

Week 4 Rationalism

September 30th – October 2nd

Critique of Aristotle:
Sextus Empiricus *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*

October 7th – 9th

Can reason lead to certainty? (Doubting self to God)
Rene Descartes:
Meditations I, II, III (selections) & V (selections)

October 14th – 16th

***In Class Essays I**
Descartes cont.

Week 7 Empiricism

October 21st – 23rd

Critique of Rationalism
What can we know beyond our senses?

David Hume:
An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

October 28th – 30th

Hume – *Enquiry* cont.
Treatise on Human Nature, Book 1

Week 9 Idealism

November 4th – 6th

Synthesis of Rationalism and Empiricism

Waking the giant – attack on Hume

What can we know?

Immanuel Kant:

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

November 13th

***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 11 – 14 Existentialism and Wittgenstein

November 18th – 20th

Existence over Essence: Truth is Subjectivity

Soren Kierkegaard:

Concluding Unscientific Postscript

November 25th – 27th

Critique of Philosophy

Friedrich Nietzsche:

Twilight of the Idols

December 2nd – 4th

Is it all a language game?

Ludwig Wittgenstein:

Philosophical Investigations

December 9th – 11th

Bonus Material
Albert Camus:
The Myth of Sisyphus

In Class Essay III
... TBA

N.B.

*There will a quiz at the beginning of the first class of the week (except those days in which there is a test) based on assigned readings.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)
(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

(a) Quizzes – 25%

At the start of each Wednesday class there will be a short quiz based on 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 – 70%

Due dates (subject to change):

October 14th (Ancient Philosophy) 20%

November 13th (Rationalism and Empiricism) 25%

TBA (Idealism, Existentialism and Wittgenstein) 25%

(c) Seminar Questions 5%

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
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. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
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.

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 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 on the College web site in the Policy Section.

