



**Phil. 100-01, Introduction to Philosophy, I  
Fall, 2010**

COURSE OUTLINE

**I**

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 pm -2:30 pm Wednesdays, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
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**Course Schedule**

Mondays, lecture from 6:00 pm - 7:50 pm, followed by a seminar from 8:00 - 8:50  
Location: Fisher, room 210

Intended Learning Outcomes

- By the end of the course the student should be able to
- explain the nature of fundamental philosophical problems
  - demonstrate an understanding of some of the classical philosophical answers to these problems
  - describe the similarities and differences between various philosophical theories
  - 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

**Basis of Student Assessment**

- 2 in-class tests: 50% (25% each)
- final exam: 40%
- participation/group discussion: 5%
- responses to 5 documentaries: 5% (1% each)

**Sept. 13: What is Philosophy?**

Why Study Philosophy? 1.1  
Defining Philosophy, 1.2  
Branches of Philosophy, 1.5  
Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1

Seminar: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy", 1.6, The Search for a Meaningful Life, 1.7

**Sept. 20: What is the Philosopher's Way? Who Are You?**

**Socrates' Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3**

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The Trial and Death of Socrates: 2.4  
Know Thyself? 3.1  
The Soul is Immortal, 3.2 (p.89-95 only)  
Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.3

Seminar: Socrates' Legacy, 2.5, video – "Is Mind Distinct from Body?"

**Sept. 27: Who Are You? Cont.**

The Self is Consciousness, Locke, 3.4  
There is No Self, Hume, 3.5  
The Self is the Brain, 3.8  
Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.9  
Making Connections, 3.10

Seminar: video: "The Big Question: Why Am I Me?", review for test #1

**Oct.4: Are You Free?**

**\*\*TEST #1\*\*** (60 mins., covers everything from first three classes)

Are You the Master of Your Fate? 4.1  
Determinism, 4.2 (p.144- 150 only)  
Compatibilism, 4.3  
We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, p.172-182

Seminar: video, "Do We Have Freewill?"

**Oct. 11: No class - Thanksgiving**

**Oct. 18: How Can We Know the Nature of Reality?**

What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1  
Plato's Forms, 5.2  
Can Reality Be Known? Descartes, 5.4 (p.215-221 only)

Seminar: Your Beliefs About the World, 5.5, video, "Mark Steele Lectures - Descartes"

**Oct.25: What is Real? What is True?**

Locke, 6.2 (p.245-248, p.250-255 only)  
Berkeley, 6.3

Seminar: Hume, 6.4, review for test #2

**Nov.1: Is There a Spiritual Reality?**

**\*\*TEST #2\*\*** (60 mins., covers the last two classes)  
Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4

Seminar: video: "Does God Exist?"

**Nov.8: Is There a Spiritual Reality? Cont.**

A Brief Survey of Major Religions (p.325-329 only)  
Faith and Religious Experience, p.351-354

Seminar: video, "The Life of Buddha"

**Nov.15: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.**

The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.346 only)  
Subjective Knowing: The Leap of Faith, p.368-371  
God is a Human Projection, p.318-320

Seminar: Religion is a Vital Quest (p.321-324), and 7.7

**Nov.22: Are There Moral Truths?**

Ethical Relativism, 8.2  
Ethical Absolutism, 8.3

**Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p.400-406 only)**  
**Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2**

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Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3

*Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.452-460 only)*

Seminar: video: "Nietzsche: Beyond Good and Evil"

**Nov.29: Existentialist Ethics**

Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5  
Video, "Sartre: The Road to Freedom"

Seminar: Review for final exam

**Dec.6: Final Exam - 2 hours**

**6. 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](http://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 <sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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](http://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