

# School of Arts & Science HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Philosophy 102-001
Central Issues in Philosophy
Winter 2011

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

# The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

 $\Omega$  Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only. It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

#### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Sandy Bannikoff	
(b)	Office Hours:	M & W, 2:30 – 3:20	, and T & Th, 1-2
(c)	Location:	Young 320	
(d)	Phone:	370-3508	Alternative Phone:
(e)	Email:	bannikof@camosur	n.bc.ca
(f)	Website:		

# 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.
- 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. "Philosophy 102, Sandy Bannikoff"

# 4. Course Content and Schedule

The lecture schedule will generally follow this pattern: on Wednesdays/Thursdays, the lecture will introduce the paper that is assigned reading for the weekend; on Mondays/Tuesdays, the lecture will focus on the content of the paper and assume that it has been read by everyone (preferably twice). Each seminar group will spend one seminar discussion on each topic. The discussion will take place in the seminar that follows the second lecture on the topic. So, typically, both seminars will discuss the subject of Monday's/Tuesday's lecture.

Caveat: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

## Week One

Administration. General Introduction Introduction to Bertrand Russell

## Readings

- 1. "Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970"
- 2. Bertrand Russell, "Philosophy for Laymen"

#### Week Two

Lecture on Russell Introduction to James

Reading: William James, "Religion and Neurology"

## Week Three

Lecture on James Introduction to Putnam

Reading: Hillary Putnam, "Meaning and Reference", pgs. 699-706 (You do not have to read the last section, "Indexicality and Rigidity")

#### Week Four

Lecture on Putnam Review for Exam

# Week Five

Exam One Tuesday Feb. 8 Introduction to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reading: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

# Week Six

Lecture on King Introduction to Hobbes

#### Readings

- 1. "Thomas Hobbes, 1588-1679"
- 2. Hobbes, selections from the Leviathan

#### Week Seven

Lecture on Hobbes Thursday: Reading Break

Reading: Emma Goldman, "Anarchism: What it Really Stands For"

#### Week Eight

Lecture on Goldman Introduction to Feyerabend

Reading: Paul Feyerabend "How to defend society against science?"

## **Week Nine**

Lecture on Feyerabend Review for Exam

## Week Ten

Exam Two Tuesday March 15 Introduction to Smullyan

Reading: Raymond Smullyan, "Is God a Taoist?"

#### Week Eleven

Lecture on Smullyan Introduction to Borges

## Readings

- 1. "George Berkeley, 1685-1753"
- 2. "David Hume, 1711-1776"
- 3. Jorge Louis Borges, "A New Refutation of Time"

# Week Twelve

Lecture on Borges Intro to Zwicky

## Readings

- "G.W.F. Hegel, 1770-1831"
   "Martin Heidegger, 1889-1976"
- 3. Kant, Introduction to his "Prolegomena"
- 4. Jan Zwicky, "Once Upon a Time in the West"

## Week Thirteen

Lecture on Zwicky Introduction to Monk

## Readings

- 1. Hans Bynagle, "Twentieth-Century Philosophy"
- 2. "Edmond Husserl, 1859-1938"
- 3. "Ludwig Wittgenstein, 1889-1951"
- 4. Ray Monk, "What is Analytical Philosophy?"

#### Week Fourteen

Lecture on Monk Lecture on James

Reading for Last Class: William James "Philosophy and Its Critics"

The final exam will be scheduled during the final exam period.

# 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

1.	Exam One	25%
2.	Exam Two	30%
3.	Exam Three	35%
4.	Seminar	10%

# **Seminar Grade**

Each student is required to bring a short typed assignment to each seminar. The assignment will consist of the student's comments on that week's reading, consisting of one positive point, one negative point, and one question, confusion or problem. These comments will form the basis of our discussion and contribute to the seminar grade. The marks here are primarily participation marks; so if you are not there, you can't earn any marks, even if you hand in the assignment.

# **Exam Policy**

Each exam is mandatory. Contact me as soon as you are aware that you either will miss an exam or have missed an exam. My phone number and e-mail are on the first page of this outline. Make-ups will be permitted only in cases of confirmed illness or crisis.

# 6. Grading System

# Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	Α		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	В		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	С		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.	

## **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
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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 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	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 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.

Students may not use recording devices in the classroom without the prior permission of the instructor. However, the instructor's permission is not required when the use of a recording device is sanctioned by the College's Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities in order to accommodate a student's disability and when the instructor has been provided with an instructor notification letter which specifies the use of a recording device. Recordings made in the classroom are for the student's personal use only, and distribution of recorded material is prohibited.