



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
*School of Arts & Science*  
*Humanities*

**Phil. 100-04, Introduction to Philosophy, I**  
**Fall, 2011**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**I**

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 am -12:30 pm Wednesdays, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
Email	noelju@camosun.bc.ca		

**Course Schedule**

**Lectures:** Tuesdays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (F-214)  
Thursdays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (F-214)

**Seminars:** Group A: Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (F-214)  
Group B: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (F-214)

**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 of 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

**Basis of Student Assessment**

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

## Reading Assignments

### **Week 1: What is Philosophy?**

Sept.6 – Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of Philosophy, 1.5

Sept.8 – 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.13 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1, **QUIZ #1**

Sept.15 – Socrates’ Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3

Seminar: The Trial and Death of Socrates, 2.4, Socrates’ Legacy, 2.5

### **Week 3: Do We Have Souls?**

Sept.20 – Know Thyself? 3.1, The Soul is Immortal. 3.2 (p.89-95 only)

Sept.22 – Descartes’ Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.3

Seminar: The Self is Consciousness, Locke, 3.4

### **Week 4: Who Are You?**

Sept.27 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.5, **QUIZ #2**

Sept.29 – The Self is the Brain, 3.8, review for test #1

Seminar: Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.9, and 3.10

### **Week 5: Are You Free?**

Oct.4 – **TEST #1**

Oct.6 – Are You the Master of Your Fate? 4.1, Determinism, 4.2 (p.144-150 only), We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, p.172-182

Seminar: Compatibilism, 4.3

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

Oct.11 – What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, Plato’s Forms, 5.2

Oct.13 – Can Reality Be Known? Descartes, 5.4 (p.215-221 only), **QUIZ #3**

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

### **Week 7: What is Real? What is True?**

Oct. 18 – Locke, 6.2 (p.245-248, p.250-255 only)

Oct. 20 – Berkeley, 6.3

Seminar: Hume, 6.4

### **Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?**

Oct.25 – A Brief Survey of Major Religions (p.325-329), **QUIZ #4**

Oct.27 – God is a Human Projection p.318-320, Faith and Religious Experience, p.351-354, Religion is a Vital Quest, p.321-324

Seminar: video, "The Life of Buddha"

**Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.**

Nov.1 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4

Nov.3 – The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.346 only), review for test #2

Seminar: Subjective Knowing: The Leap of Faith, p.368-371, and 7.7

**Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?**

Nov.8 – **TEST #2**

Nov.10 – Your Moral Compass, 8.1, Ethical Relativism, 8.2

Seminar: Ethical Absolutism, 8.3

**Week 11: Why Should I be Moral?**

Nov.15 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p. 400-406) only, **QUIZ #5**

Nov.17 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Seminar: Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3

**Week 12: What are Right Actions?**

Nov.22 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.452-460 only)

Nov.24 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5 (p.469-476 only)

Seminar: video, "Nietzsche on Hardship"

**Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?**

Nov.29 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5 (p.476-481 only)

Dec.1 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5 (p.481-486 only), **QUIZ #6**

Seminar: video; "Sartre: The Road to Freedom"

**Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.**

Dec.6 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, 9.5 (p.487-491 only)

Dec.8 – Review for final exam

Seminar: Questions

**Grading System**

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F	0-49%

**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.

**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, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY**

[www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)

