



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

Phil. 100-05, 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, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (WT-203)
Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (WT-203)

Seminars: Group A: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (WT-203)
Group B: Thursdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (WT-203)

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, 3rd edition

Basis of Student Assessment

- 2 in-class tests: 50% (25% each)
- final exam: 35% (date tba, Dec. final exam period)
- seminar participation/group discussion: 10%
- 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: video – 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

