



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

Phil. 100-04, Introduction to Philosophy, I
Fall, 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Monday through Thursday, 10:30 am -11:30 am Thursdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
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Course Schedule

Lectures: Mondays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (F-212)
Wednesdays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (F-212)

Seminars: Group A: Mondays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (F-212)
Group B: Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (F-212)

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, 4th edition

Basis of Student Assessment

- a) 3 in-class tests: 60% (20% each)
- b) final exam: 30% (date tba, Dec. final exam period)
- c) seminar participation/group discussion: 10%

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

Sept.5 – Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of Philosophy, 1.5 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.10 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1

Sept.12 – Socrates’ Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3, The Trial and Death of Socrates, 2.4

Seminar: Socrates’ Legacy, 2.5, Know Thyself? 3.1, The Soul is Immortal, 3.2

Week 3: Who Are You?

Sept.17 – Descartes’ Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4, The Self is Consciousness, Locke, 3.5

Sept.19 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.6

Seminar: Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.12

Week 4: Who Are You?

Sept.24 – The Self is the Brain, 3.10 (p.143-151 only)

Sept.26 – **TEST #1**

Seminar: Are You the Master of Your Fate?, 4.1

Week 5: Are You Free?

Oct.1 – Determinism, 4.2

Oct.3 – We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, (p.203-213 only)

Seminar: Compatibilism, 4.3

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

Oct.8 – Thanksgiving, no class

Oct.10 – What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, Plato’s Forms, 5.2

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

Oct. 15 – Descartes, 5.4

Oct. 17 – Berkeley, 6.3

Seminar: Hume, 6.4

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

Oct.22 – **TEST #2**

Oct.24 – Buddhism and Taoism (p.369-371 only)

Seminar: documentary: The Life of the Buddha

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

Oct.29 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

Oct.31 – The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.388 -394 only)

Seminar: God is a Human Projection p.360-362, Religion is a Vital Quest, p.363-366, Subjective Knowing: The Leap of Faith, p.419-421

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

Nov.5 – Your Moral Compass, 8.1, Ethical Relativism, 8.2
 Nov.7 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p.454-460 only)
 Seminar: Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

Nov.12 – Remembrance Day, no class
 Nov.14 –Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-506 only)

Week 12: What are Right Actions?

Nov.19 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.506-518 only)
Nov.21 – TEST #3

Seminar: documentary, "Nietzsche on Hardship"

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

Nov.26 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Kierkegaard, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)
 Nov.28 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)
 Seminar: documentary, "Sartre: The Road to Freedom"

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

Dec.3 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Sartre and de Beauvoir, 9.5(p.535-542 only)
 Dec.5 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)
 Seminar: Review for final exam

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. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd 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.
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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 the College web site in the Policy Section.