



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

Phil. 100-05, Introduction to Philosophy, I
Fall, 2012

I

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		
Email	noelju@camosun.bc.ca		

Course Schedule

- Lectures:** Tuesdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (F-212)
Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (F-212)
- Seminars:** Group A: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (F-212)
Group B: Thursdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (F-212)

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

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

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

Sept.4 – Introduction

Sept.6 – 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.11 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1

Sept.13 – 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: Do We Have Souls?

Sept.18 – Descartes’ Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4, The Self is Consciousness, Locke. 3.5

Sept.20 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.6

Seminar: Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.12

Week 4: Who Are You?

Sept.25 – The Self is the Brain, 3.10 (p.143-151 only)

Sept.27 – **TEST #1**

Seminar: Are You the Master of Your Fate? 4.1

Week 5: Are You Free?

Oct.2 – Determinism, 4.2

Oct.4 – 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.9 – What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, Plato’s Forms, 5.2

Oct.11 – Descartes, 5.4

Seminar: documentary, "Mark Steele on Descartes"

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

Oct. 16 – Berkeley, 6.3

Oct. 18 – Hume, 6.4

Seminar: Hume, 6.4, cont.

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

Oct.23 – **TEST #2**

Oct.25 – Buddhism and Taoism (p.369-371 only)

Seminar: video, "The Life of the Buddha"

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

Oct.30 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

Nov.1 – 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.6 – Your Moral Compass, 8.1, Ethical Relativism, 8.2

Nov.8 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p. 454-460 only)

Seminar: Ethical Absolutism

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

Nov.13 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Nov.15 – Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-506 only)

Seminar: discussion of Duty-based Ethics

Week 12: What are Right Actions?

Nov.20 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.452-460 only)

Nov.22 – **TEST #3**

Seminar: video, "Nietzsche on Hardship"

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

Nov.27 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

Nov.29 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)

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

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

Dec.4 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Sartre and de Beauvoir, 9.5(p.535-542 only)

Dec.6 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)

Seminar: Review for final exam

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..

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. 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

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://www.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. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
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.

