

School of Arts & Science HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

Philosophy 102-001

Tuesday/Thursday Class Central Issues in Philosophy Winter 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

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

(a)	Instructor:	Sandy Bannikoff	
(b)	Office Hours:	Mon & Wed 3-4, an	d Tues & Thurs, 1-2
(C)	Location:	Young 320	
(d)	Phone:	370-3508	Alternative Phone:
(e)	Email:	bannikof@camosur	n.bc.ca
(f)	Website:		

1. Instructor Information

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

Tuesday: Administration, General Introduction Thursday: Introduction to Russell

Week Two

Reading for Week 2: Bertrand Russell, "Philosophy for Laymen" **Seminar Week 2:** Argument Basics

Tuesday: Lecture on Russell Thursday: Introduction to Plato

Week Three

Reading for Week 3: Plato's "Meno", in three sections. The reference system of numbers and letters is used to refer to precise passages; they are found down the side of each page.

- 1) What is virtue? (70a-81a)
- 2) Theory of Recollection (81a-86c)

Seminar Reading Week 3: Final section of Plato's "Meno" 3) Can virtue be taught? (86c-100b)

Tuesday: Lecture on Plato Thursday: Introduction to Smullyan

Week Four

Reading for Week 4: Raymond Smullyan, "Is God a Taoist?" **Seminar Reading for Week 4:** Chuang-Tzu

Tuesday: Lecture on Smullyan Thursday: Review for Exam

Week Five: Exam One

Exam One: Tuesday October 2, Thursday: Introduction to Hobbes

<u>Week Six</u>

Readings for Week 6

1. "Thomas Hobbes, 1588-1679"

2. Hobbes, selections from the Leviathan

Seminar Week 6: Current Events (Politics)

Tuesday: Lecture on Hobbes Thursday: Introduction to King

Week Seven

Reading for Week 7: Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail" **Seminar Week 7:** Current Events (Politics)

Tuesday: Lecture on King Thursday: Introduction to Feyerabend

Week Eight

Reading for Week 8: Paul Feyerabend "How to defend society against science?" **Seminar Reading for Weeks 8:** Kipphardt <u>In the Matter of Robert J. Oppenheimer</u> (Note: This is a long reading; but it is an historical play, not a philosophy essay. So: no complaints.)

Tuesday: Lecture on Feyerabend Thursday: Introduction to James

Week Nine

Reading for Week 9: William James, "Religion and Neurology" **Seminar Week 9:** Current Events (Science)

Tuesday: Lecture on James Thursday: Review for Exam Two

Week Ten: Exam Two

Tuesday: Exam Two: Tuesday November 6th Thursday: Introduction to Anscombe

Week Eleven

Reading for Week 11: G.E.M. Anscombe "Two Kinds of Error In Action" Seminar Reading for Week 11: Hans Bynagle, "Twentieth-Century Philosophy" Seminar Week 11: Moral Philosophy

Tuesday: Lecture on Anscombe Thursday: Introduction to Putnam

Week Twelve

Reading for Week 12: Hillary Putnam "Meaning and Reference" (pg. 699-706) Note: The last section of this paper, sub-titled "Indexicality and Rigidity", is not assigned reading. **Seminar Week 12:** 1) terms: syntax, semantics, intension, extension; 2) biotopy of ideas: "the linguistic tyre"

2) history of ideas: "the linguistic turn"

Tuesday: Lecture on Putnam Thursday: Introduction to Borges

Week Thirteen

Readings For Week 13

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

Seminar Week 13: David Hume's arguments on personal identity and cause.

Tuesday: Lecture on Borges Thursday: Introduction to Zwicky

Week Fourteen

Readings For Week 14: Tuesday

- 1. Jan Zwicky, "Once Upon a Time in the West"
- 2. "G.W.F. Hegel, 1770-1831"
- 3. "Martin Heidegger, 1889-1976"

Seminar Week 14: Metaphilosophy: What is philosophy?

Tuesday: Lecture on Zwicky

Reading for last class: William James "Philosophy and Its Critics"

Thursday: Lecture on James

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 Participation	10%

Seminar Grade

There is a short written assignment for each seminar. You are to hand in and be prepared to pose 1) a question about the content of that week's lecture reading; and 2) a question or comment about that week's seminar reading; for seminars when there is no assigned reading, bring in two questions instead of one about the reading for lecture. These questions will only be accepted when you attend the seminar.

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. In the case of a personal crisis, students will be referred to the Camosun Counseling services.

6. Grading System

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	А		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.	0

Standard Grading System (GPA)

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
Ι	<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</i>)
	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.

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 <u>camosun.ca</u>.

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.

Communication Students are welcome to e-mail me anytime. However, please know that all of your correspondence with me is professional. This means that your messages must be (basically) grammatically correct and without the shorthand that is common online and in texting.