



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Humanities

Phil. 100-03, Introduction to Philosophy, I
Fall, 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

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		
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Course Schedule

- Lectures:** Mondays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (Y-316)
Wednesdays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (Y-316)
- Seminars:** Group A: Mondays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (Y-316)
Group B: Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (Y-316)

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, 3rd edition

Basis of Student Assessment

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

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

Sept.4 - Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?

Sept.9 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

Sept.11 – Socrates' Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3, The Trial and Death of Socrates, 2.4

Seminar: Socrates' Legacy, 2.5, Q#1: Is Socrates relevant today? p.92

Week 3: Who Are You?

Sept.16 – Know Thyself? 3.1, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4

Sept.18 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.6

Seminar: Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.12, Q#2: Do you know yourself? p.103

Week 4: Are You Free?

Sept.23 – TEST #1

Sept.25 – Are You the Master of Your Fate?, 4.1

Seminar: Q#3: What are your assumptions about freedom? p.175

Week 5: Are You Free?

Sept.30– Determinism, 4.2

Oct.2 – We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, (p.203-213 only)

Seminar: Compatibilism, 4.3, Q#4: What are the limitations to your freedom? p. 222

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

Oct.7 – Plato's Forms, 5.2

Oct.9 – Descartes, 5.4

Seminar: Q#5: Analyzing Plato's Allegory of the Cave, p.249

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

Oct. 14 – no class, Thanksgiving

Oct. 16 – Berkeley, 6.3

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

Oct.21 – TEST #2

Oct.23 – Buddhism and Taoism (p.369-371 only)

Seminar: video, "The Life of the Buddha"

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

Oct.28 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

Oct.30 – 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, Q#6: What are your religious beliefs? P.353

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

Nov.4 – Your Moral Compass, 8.1, Ethical Relativism, 8.2

Nov.6 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p. 454-460 only)

Seminar: Q#7: What are your moral values? p.431

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

Nov.11 – no class, Remembrance Day

Nov.13 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2, Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-506 only) Q#8: What is your moral character? p.483 (note: since there is no seminar this week, the assignment Q#8 has to be handed in today, in the Wed. class)

Week 12: What are Right Actions?

Nov.18 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.452-460 only)

Nov.20 – **TEST #3**

Seminar: video, "Nietzsche on Hardship", Q#9: Do you find Nietzsche inspiring?

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

Nov.25 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

Nov.27 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)

Seminar: Q#10: Analyzing Kierkegaard on Authenticity, first question, p.530

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

Dec.2 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Sartre and de Beauvoir, 9.5(p.535-542 only)

Dec.4 – 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