



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
*School of Arts & Science*  
*Humanities*

**Phil. 100-04, Introduction to Philosophy, I**  
**Fall, 2013**

**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:** Tuesdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (Y-317)  
Thursdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (Y-317)

**Seminars:** Group A: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (Y-317)  
Group B: Thursdays, 1:30 pm - 2:20 pm (Y-317)

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.3 – Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

Sept.5- What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, pages 228-231 (end of top para.)

### **Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?**

Sept.10 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

Sept.12 – 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.17 – Know Thyself, 3.1, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4

Sept.19 – 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.24 – **TEST #1**

Sept.26 – 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?**

Oct.1 – Determinism, 4.2

Oct.3 – 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.8 – Plato's Forms, 5.2

Oct.10 – Descartes, 5.4

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

### **Week 7: What is Real? What is True?**

Oct. 15 – Berkeley, 6.3

Oct. 17 – Hume, 6.4

Seminar: Q#6: What is your concept of reality? p.238

### **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, Q#7: What are your religious beliefs? p.353

**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: Q#8: What are your moral values? p.431

**Week 11: What are Right Actions?**

Nov.12 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Nov.14 –Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-506 only)

Seminar: Q#9: What is your moral character? p.483

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

**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

**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](http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html)