# School of Arts & Science Humanities

# Phil 116, Section 1 Philosophy Through Film Fall 2013

## COURSE OUTLINE

 $\Omega$  Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records.

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Karen Shirley

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# **Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

- 1. Identify and describe ideas and arguments as expressed through film and other media, such as television, music videos, and video shorts. Relate these ideas and arguments to their classical presentations.
  - 2. Identify the ideas that make certain films significant.
- 3. Apply information found in external sources to explore and critically analyze the ideas and arguments found in film. Support descriptive and value claims about the ideas and arguments as well as claims about the film presentation of those ideas and arguments.
  - 4. Demonstrate written and oral communication skills.

# **Required Materials**

Texts: Introducing Philosophy through Film (Available in the bookstore)

Films: While a couple of films will be shown in full, most will not. An hour's worth of the relevant parts of films will be shown in most cases, due to time and scheduling constraints. Students may view complete films on their own, preferably before we view the relevant parts in class.

### **Basis of Student Assessment**

#### **Summary**

3 non-cumulative exams, one of which will be held in the final exam period	90%
Verbal participation in seminars (overwhelming is as bad as underwhelming)	10%

## **Formatting Exams**

- 1. Put the following information on each assignment:
  - a) your student number; b) your section number
- 2. Write on both sides of the page, where more than one page is required, and double-space.

**Note: Keep** *all* **marked assignments** in case there is a discrepancy between your record of your marks and my record of your marks.

## **Course Content and Schedule**

# Sept. 4

Administration

## Part I: Introduction to Philosophy

# <u>Unit 1</u>

Sept. 6: Film: Monty Python, "The Argument Skit" and Seinfeld episode: The Soup

Sept 11: **Readings:** p. 1 - 16 of text

Study Q: TBA

## Part II: The Problem of Perception

# Unit 2

Sept. 13 Film: The Matrix

Sept. 18 Readings: Introduction to Part II and Descartes and Hume

# Unit 3

Sept. 20 Film: Total Recall

Sept. 25 Readings: From Part II: Putnam and Nozick

**Study Q's for first midterm:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11, 13 on pages 123 – 124.

## Part III: Philosophy of Mind

## Unit 4

Sept. 27 Film: Bicentennial Man

Reading: Introduction to Part III and Searle

Oct. 2 Exam

# Unit 5

Oct. 4 Film: Star Trek TV episode: Turn About Intruder

Oct 9 Readings: Jackson and Williams

## Part IV: Ethics

## Unit 6

Oct. 11 Film: Abandon Ship

Oct. 16 Readings: Introduction to Part IV and Mill

#### Unit 7

Oct. 18 **Film:** *Unthinkable* Oct. 23 **Readings:** Nagel

#### Unit 8

Oct. 25 **Film** *The Third Man* Oct. 30 **Readings**: Broad

**Study Q's for second midterm**: 4, 6(b), 7(a), 7(b),9 on pages 233-234; 3, 12, and a couple of TBA questions related to *Unthinkable*.

Nov. 6 Exam

# Part V: Philosophy of Time

## Unit 9

Nov. 8 **Film:** Frequency

Nov. 13 Readings: Introduction to Part V, Taylor, and Lewis

# Part VI: Free Will, Foreknowledge, and Determinism

Unit 10

Nov. 15 **Film:** *Minority Report* 

Nov. 20 **Readings**: Introduction to Part VI and Hume

Unit 11

Nov. 22 Film: Law and Order ("black rage" defense)

Nov. 27 Readings: Feinberg

## Part VII Philosophy of Religion

Unit 12

Nov. 29 Film: *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* Dec. 4 **Readings**: Introduction to Part VII and Rowe

Unit 13

Dec. 6 Film: YouTube: Mr. Deity and the Evil

Readings: Mackie

**Study Q's for the final exam:** 1 and 2 on page 501; 1, 2, and 7 on page 567; 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 on page 612.

## **Details of Evaluation**

**Exams:** The exams are closed-book. However, you are encouraged to bring a dictionary and/or style guide. Each exam will consist of one of the study questions from the schedule above. The question will be randomly chosen at the beginning of the exam. The exams are not cumulative.

The online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy may be of some help.

### You may lose marks for making the following mistakes on exams

- 1. Do not use the first or second person. Here are two examples of the first person: "We cannot pass students who cannot use the English language adequately," and "I cannot pass students who cannot use the English language adequately." Here is an example of the second person: "You don't realise that it is not our fault that we were not taught how to write in high school." The following are examples of sentences written in the third person. "People cannot pass the buck forever." "One will find that a style guide is essential in university."
- 2. Do not use a pronoun which disagrees with the noun it refers to. (Students often make this mistake when they are trying to use gender neutral language something you are advised to try to use.) You are advised that in many cases, pronoun disagreement can be avoided through the use of plural nouns. Here is an example of a sentence in which the pronoun disagrees with the noun: "A philosopher should not be so picky about English; they are not English teachers." Here is the corrected version: "Philosophers should not be so picky about English; they are not English teachers."
- 3. Do not use abbreviations or contradictions. For instance, do not use "e. g.," "i.e.," or "etc.."
- 4. Do not ask rhetorical questions.
- 5. Do not add "ly" to "first," second" and so on.
- 6. Do not say "moral and ethical" because we are using the two words as synonyms.
- 7. Do not say you 'feel' something when that thing is a thought, a belief or, synonymously, an opinion.
- 8. Avoid using the following words or define them when you use them: balance, equilibrium, appropriate.

### **Marking Notation**

 $3^{rd}$  p = you were supposed to be writing in the  $3^{rd}$  person

sp = incorrect spelling

pd = pronoun disagreement gr = error in grammarpunct = punctuation dm = dangling modifier

ww = wrong word

cap = you used capital or lower case letters incorrectly

ab = you used an abbreviation frag = sentence fragment

rhet ? = rhetorical question cl = clarity

run on = sentence needs to be divided up

ss = sentence structure is incorrect

rep = repetition

# **Grading System**

Percentage	Grade	Grade Point
		Equivalency
90-100	A+	9
85-89	A	8
80-84	A-	7
77-79	B+	6
73-76	В	5
70-72	B-	4

65-69	C+	3
60-64	C	2
50-59	D	1
0-49	F	0

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.

## 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 <a href="mailto:camosun.ca">camosun.ca</a>

### 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.