



COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/phil.html>

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:30-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:30		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
Email	noelju@camosun.bc.ca		

Course Schedule

- Lectures:** Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (WT-203)
Fridays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am, (WT-203)
- Seminars:** Group A: Tuesdays, 10:30 am -11:20 am, (WT-203)
Group B: Fridays, 10:30 am -11:20 am, (WT-203)

Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe fundamental philosophical problems, along with the classical philosophical answers to these problems.
2. Distinguish among various philosophical theories.
3. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
4. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses.

Required Text: The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas, John Chaffee, 4th edition

Basis of Student Assessment

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

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

9/02 - Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

9/05 – What is the Nature of Reality? 5.1, pages 228-231 (to end of top para.)

Seminar: Asking Philosophical Questions

Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?

9/09 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

9/12 – 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?

9/16 – Know Thyself? 3.1, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4

9/19 – 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?

9/23 – **TEST #1**

9/26 – Determinism, 4.2 (p.176-181 only)

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

Week 5: Are You Free?/Nature of Reality

9/30 – We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, (p.203-213 only)

10/03 – Descartes, 5.4

Seminar: Q#4: How do you know when you are dreaming and when you are awake?

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

10/07 – Plato's Forms, 5.2

10/10 – Discussion of Nozick's "Experience Machine"

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

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

10/14 – Berkeley, 6.3

10/17 – Hume, 6.4

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

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

10/21 – **TEST #2**

10/24 – Buddhism (p.369-370 only)

Seminar: Q#7: Are the Four Noble Truths True? (see pages 369-370)

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

10/28 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

10/31 – The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.388-394 only)

Seminar: Q#8: What are your religious beliefs? p.353

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

11/04 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

11/07 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p.454-460 only)

Seminar: Q#9: What are your moral values? p.431

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

11/11 – no class, Remembrance Day

11/14 –Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-500 only)

Week 12: What are Right Actions? Cont.

11/18 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.506-511 only)

11/21 – **TEST #3**

Seminar: Q#10: What is the meaning or purpose of your life?

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

11/25 – Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, Subjective Knowing: The Leap of Faith, p.419-421, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

11/28 – Existentialist Ethics, Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)

Seminar: Q#11: Analyzing Kierkegaard on Authenticity, first question, p.530

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

12/02 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Sartre and de Beauvoir, 9.5(p.535-542 only)

12/05 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics - Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)

Seminar: Review for final exam

Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		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

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
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. (For these 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.
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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 camosun.ca.

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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED