



School of Arts & Science  
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT  
PHIL 290  
Special Topics in Philosophy  
Conspiracy Theories and Moral Panics  
Fall 2014

M/R 11:30-12:20 and M 12:30-1:20 or R 12:30-1:20 Young 325

## COURSE OUTLINE

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

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dr. Craig Derksen
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 10:30-11:20 or by appointment
(c)	Location:	L: Young 320
(d)	Phone:	L: 370-3390
(e)	Email:	derksenc@camosun.bc.ca
(f)	Website:	

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reason.
2. Identify major themes and arguments relating to the course topic.
3. Analyze, assess, compare and develop nuanced arguments concerning the issues central to the topic of the course.
4. Demonstrate skills in written and oral communication.

### 3. Required Materials

None, but there will be cultural assignments posted on D2L. This course will also make use of D2L for other communication and assignments.

### 4. Course Content and Schedule (subject to change)

Sept 4 Introduction  
Week 1 Sept 8 and 11 Some general forms  
Week 2 Sept 15 and 18 Government  
Week 3 Sept 22 and 25 Science  
Week 4 Sept 29 and Oct 2 Religion  
Week 5 Oct 6 and 9 Music  
Week 6 Oct 13 (no class) and 16 Politics  
Week 7 Oct 20 and 23 Media/Movies  
Week 8 Oct 27 and 30 Popularization  
Week 9 Nov 3 and 6 Aliens  
Week 10 Nov 10 and 13 Top Secret  
Week 11 Nov 17 and 20 Topics  
Week 12 Nov 24 and 27 Topics  
Week 13 Dec 1 and 4 Closure

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Papers worth 30%, 30%, 40%. Due Oct 2, Oct 30, Dec 8 respectively.

## 6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

### 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](http://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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 [camosun.ca](http://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.