

COURSE OUTLINE

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

⚡ 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:	Megan Shelstad		
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 11 :30 am - 12:30 pm and 1:00 - 2:30 pm		
(c)	Location:	Young 312		
(d)	Phone:	370-3950	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	shelstad@camosun.bc.ca		

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. Summarize the central philosophical issues within both the Continental (i.e., French and German) and Analytic (i.e., British) traditions.
2. Outline critical objections to both classical and contemporary philosophical theories.
3. Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reasons.
4. Identify the relevance of philosophical problems to everyday problems concerning beliefs and values, knowledge, personal identity, and the nature of reality.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: coursepack (available in the bookstore)

4. Course Content and Schedule

(This section can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

Lectures: Mondays: 9:30 - 10:20 am **Young 316**
Wednesdays: 9:30 – 10:20 am **Young 317**

Seminar A: Mondays: 10:30 – 11:20 am **Young 316**
Seminar B: Wednesdays: 10:30 – 11:20 am **Young 317**

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

- (a) Assignments: 30% (3 marks each) **TEN** weekly commentaries (**minimum - 1/2 page, maximum - 1 page, single-spaced, typed**) – read the assigned selection and bring to seminar your prepared thoughts, paying careful attention to the **arguments** offered and your evaluation of them as well as the usual rules of good grammar, spelling and composition. (**3 - Excellent, 2 - Average, 1 - Needs work**)
- (b) Quizzes: 10% (6 quizzes, 2 marks each, best 5, **no make-ups**)
- (c) Exams: 20% midterm test
30% final test (in exam period which starts December 12)
- (d) Other: 10% seminar attendance and class preparation

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 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.

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.

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

PHIL 102 - 02 reading schedule (to be done before class) - Subject to change if needed.
Homework due Mondays (in class) and Quizzes on Wednesdays (usually)

Week 1: Sept. 7 – Introduction, *questionnaire* NO SEMINAR

The Meaning of Life

Week 2: Sept. 12 – Socrates (Plato): “*The Apology*,” Sept. 14 -- Socratic method, argument
Seminar: Voltaire “The Good Brahmin” (internet)

see homework instructions (coursepack and course outline)

Week 3: Sept. 19 – questioning question, pessimism, Sept. 21 -- religion**QUIZ 1** (week 2)
Seminar: Leo Tolstoy “My Confession” (see homework instructions)

Week 4: Sept. 26 – secular humanism, Sept. 28 -- existentialism **QUIZ 2** (week 3, 4)
Seminar: Hazel Barnes “An Existentialist Ethics” (see homework instructions)

Human Nature

Week 5: Oct. 3 – Freud, evolution, Oct. 5 -- psychological egoism
Seminar: “Kanzi, the rational chimpanzee” (answer the 3 questions)

THANKSGIVING DAY: Mon. Oct. 10, college closed

Week 6: Oct. 12 – Mencius, Xun-Zi, NO SEMINAR

Week 7: Oct. 17 – Butler, Smith, ethical egoism, Oct. 19 -- Chuang-tzu**QUIZ 3** (week 5, 6)
Seminar: “The Purpose of Business” (answer the 3 questions)

Week 8: Oct. 24 – review, Oct. 26 -- ***MIDTERM TEST (Wednesday)***
Seminar: OPEN

What do we owe society?

Week 9: Oct. 31 – Crito (Plato), Nov. 2 -- King **QUIZ 4** (week 7, 9)
Seminar: “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (see homework instructions)

REMEMBRANCE DAY: Friday Nov. 11, college closed

Week 10: Nov. 7 – Malcolm X, bell hooks, Nov. 9 NO SEMINAR

Individual Rights and Freedom

Week 11: Nov. 14 – Locke, Nov. 16 -- Hospers **QUIZ 5** (week 10, 11)
Seminar: Amartya Sen “Property and Hunger” (see homework instructions)

Personal Identity and the Self

Week 12: Nov. 21 – Goldman, Nov. 23 -- The Buddha **QUIZ 6** (week 12)
Seminar: McCloskey “Crossing” (see homework instructions)

Free will and Determinism

Week 13: Nov. 28 – Skinner, Nov. 30 -- Taylor, responsibility, authenticity
Seminar: Sartre “Existentialism is a Humanism” (see homework instructions)

Week 14: Dec. 5 – Kolak & Martin, Dec. 7 -- loose ends ***FINAL EXAM IN EXAM PERIOD***
Seminar: “Five Insights of Existentialism” (*your own thoughts and feelings*)

WHAT DO I THINK? *Questionnaire on the Meaning of Life*

	Agree	Disagree
1. When someone asks "What is the meaning of life?" I have no idea what they are asking.		
2. The search for the meaning of life is a natural human quest, but it is like searching for the fountain of youth. In both cases, the object of the search will never be found.		
3. Everything that happens in my life was meant to happen to fulfill some larger purpose. The most important goal in life is to discover what that purpose is.		
4. If I can say at the end of my life, "I've had my ups and downs, my moments of happiness and moments of sadness, but, overall, life is good," then I have found "the meaning of life."		
5. People are born, they sustain themselves for 70 years by eating, working, and sleeping, and then they die. That is all that can be said about the meaning of life.		
6. People may feel as though they have found the purpose of life, but it is possible that they are mistaken about this feeling, because human existence has an objective purpose that is independent of human opinions about it.		
7. There is no single answer to the question of the meaning of life that applies to everyone, because each individual has to seek his or her own personal meaning.		
8. If people don't obtain what they want in life, they will be frustrated. However, if they do get what they want, they either will be bored or will develop new desires and, hence, new occasions for frustration. It seems clear that in the final analysis, frustration or boredom and meaningless suffering is people's lot in life.		
9. Unless they are completely numb to their own existence, most people experience a vague emptiness and yearning throughout their life, because they are trying to fill that void with that which is transitory and finite when only an eternal and infinite meaning will satisfy them.		
10. It is incorrect to speak of "seeking the meaning of life," because this statement implies that it is out there, like an Easter egg, waiting for people to find it. Instead, each person should speak of "creating meaning for my life." People are like artists facing blank canvases, considering what work of personal creation they will find satisfying.		