



COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Mondays, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11:30 am		
Office	Young 312		
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Course Schedule

Lectures: Wednesdays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (E-348)
Fridays, 8:30 am - 9:20 am (E-348)

Seminars: Group A: Wednesdays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (E-348)
Group B: Fridays, 9:30 am - 10:20 am (E-348)

Intended Learning Outcomes - By the end of the course the student should be able to

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) seminar attendance: 10%
- d) seminar assignments: 10% (assignments **not** accepted through email, assignments not accepted if absent for the corresponding seminar, late assignments not accepted). Only 10 of the 11 assignments have to be completed, so there is 1 throwaway.

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

Jan.11 - Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

Jan.13 – The Presocratics: 5.1, pages 228-231 (to end of top para.)

Seminar: Introductions

Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?

Jan.18 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

Jan.20 – 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?

Jan.25 – Know Thyself? 3.1, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4

Jan.27 – 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?

Feb.1 – **TEST #1**

Feb.3 – Are You the Master of Your Fate?, 4.1, Determinism, 4.2 (p.176-181 only)

Seminar: Q#3: Do you feel free? What constraints are there on your freedom?

Week 5: How Can We Know the Nature of Reality?

Feb.8 – Plato's Forms, 5.2

Feb.10 – Descartes, 5.4

Seminar: Q#4: Provide a creative interpretation of Plato's allegory of the cave (p.245-249)

Week 6: Reading Break, no classes

Week 7: What is Real? What is True?

Feb.22 – Berkeley, 6.3

Feb.24 – Hume, 6.4

Seminar: Q#5: What is your concept of reality? p.238

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

Mar.1 – **TEST #2**

Mar.3 – Buddhism (p.369-371 only)

Seminar: Q#6: Are the Four Noble Truths True? (see pages 369-370)

Week 9: Is There a Spiritual Reality? cont.

Mar.8 – Can We Prove the Existence of God? 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

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

Seminar: Q#7: Is there a spiritual realm?

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

Mar.15 – Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-500 only)

Mar.17 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p.454-460 only)

Seminar: Q#8: Are there any absolute moral truths? Is there always a truly right course of action?

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

Mar.22 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Mar.24 – Ethical Relativism, 8.2, (p.435-440 only)

Seminar: Q#9: Has learning about moral philosophy helped to improve your moral character? If so, how? If not, why not?

Week 12: What are Right Actions?

Mar.29– Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.506-511 only)

Mar.31 – **TEST #3**

Seminar: at home watch YouTube video, "Nietzsche on Hardship", Q#10: Do you find Nietzsche inspiring? Why or why not?

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

April 5 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

April 7 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)

Seminar: Q#11: Are you living an authentic existence? What does this even mean?

Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.

April 12 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Sartre, 9.5 (p.535-542 only), and Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)

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.

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