



**School of Arts & Science, Humanities
Phil. 100-01, Introduction to Philosophy, I
Fall, 2017**

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor	Dr. Justine Noel		
Office Hours	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm		
Office	Young 312		
Phone	(250) 370-3951		
Email	noelju@camosun.bc.ca		

Course Schedule

- Lectures:** Tuesdays, 10:30 am - 11:20 am (E-346)
Thursdays, 10:30 am - 11:20 am (E-346)
- Seminars:** Group A: Tuesdays, 11:30 am -12:20 pm (E-346)
Group B: Thursdays, 11:30 am -12:20 pm (E-346)

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

- a) explain the nature of fundamental philosophical problems
- b) demonstrate an understanding of some of the classical philosophical answers to these problems
- c) describe the similarities and differences between various philosophical theories
- d) critically analyze an argument philosophically by assessing its strengths and weaknesses and then supporting one's own position with good reasons

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, Dec. final exam period)
- c) seminar attendance: 10%
- d) seminar assignments: 10% (must be TYPED and submitted while attending seminar), 2=present with completed assignment, 1=present, no assignment, 0=neither

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

9/5 - Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

9/7 – 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?

9/12 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

9/14 – 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?

9/19 – Know Thyself? 3.1

9/21 – 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?

9/26 – **TEST #1**

9/28 – 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

10/3 – We Create Ourselves Through Our Choices: Sartre, (p.203-213 only)

10/5 – 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?

10/10 – Plato's Forms, 5.2 (p.239-244 only)

10/12 – Plato's Cave, 5.2 (p.245-249 only), 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?

10/17 – Berkeley, 6.3

10/19 – Hume, 6.4

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

Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?

10/24 – **TEST #2**

10/26 – 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.

10/31 – Can We Prove the Existence of God?, 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

11/2 – The Problem of Evil, 7.5, (p.388-394 only)

Seminar: Q#8: Do you believe that there is a spiritual realm?

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

11/7 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

11/9 – Egoism as a Universal Principle, 8.4 (p.454-460 only)

Seminar: no assignment, discussion of morality

Week 11: What are Right Actions?

11/14 – Ethical Relativism, 5.2 (p.435-440 only)

11/16 –Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-500 only)

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

Week 12: What are Right Actions? Cont.

11/21 – Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.506-511 only)

11/23 – **TEST #3**

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

Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?

11/28 – Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, Subjective Knowing: The Leap of Faith, p.419-421, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

11/30 – 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.

12/5 – Authenticity, Sartre, 9.5 (p.535-540 only)

12/7 – Courage, Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)

Seminar: optional for those needing extra help

Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F	0-49%

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.

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, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY
www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html