



CAMOSUN COLLEGE  
School of Arts & Science  
Department of Humanities

PHIL-100-001  
Introduction to Philosophy: Classics  
Winter, 2018

## COURSE OUTLINE

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

*Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.*

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### 1. Instructor Information

|              |   |  |  |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| Instructor   | Dr. Justine Noel                          |  |  |
| Office Hours | Tuesdays to Fridays, 10:30 am to 11:30 am |  |  |
| Office       | Young 312                                 |  |  |
| Phone        | (250) 370-3951                            |  |  |
| Email        | noelju@camosun.bc.ca                      |  |  |

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student will 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.

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

### 4. Course Schedule and Content

**Lectures:** Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 12:20 pm (Y-211)  
Fridays, 11:30 am - 12:20 pm (WT-101)

**Seminars:** Group A: Wednesdays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (Y-211)  
Group B: Fridays, 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm (WT-101)

## Reading Assignments

### **Week 1: What is Philosophy?**

Jan.10 - Why Study Philosophy? 1.1, Defining Philosophy, 1.2, Branches of P., 1.5

Jan.12 – The Presocratics: 5.1, pages 228-231 (to end of top para.)

Seminar: Introductions

### **Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?**

Jan.17 – Socrates: A Model for Humanity, 2.1 (pages 50, 57-61 only)

Jan.19 – Socrates' Central Concern: The Soul, 2.3, The Trial and Death of Socrates, 2.4

Socrates' Legacy, 2.5

Seminar: Q#1: Is Socrates relevant today? p.92

### **Week 3: Who Are You?**

Jan.24 – Know Thyself? 3.1, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, 3.4

Jan.26 – There is No Self, Hume, 3.6, Buddhist Concepts of the Self, 3.12

Seminar: Q#2: Do you know yourself? p.103

### **Week 4: Are You Free?**

Jan.31 – **TEST #1**

Feb.2 – 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.7 – Plato's Forms, 5.2

Feb.9 – 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.21 – Berkeley, 6.3

Feb.23 – Hume, 6.4

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

### **Week 8: Is There a Spiritual Reality?**

Feb.28 – **TEST #2**

Mar.2 – 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.7 – Can We Prove the Existence of God? 7.4 (p.376-385 only)

Mar.9 – 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.14 – Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws, 9.3 (p.493-494, 498-500 only)

Mar.16 – 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.21 – Character: Virtue Ethics, 9.2

Mar.23 – Ethical Relativism, 8.2, (p.435-440 only), Consequences: Utilitarianism, 9.4 (p.506-511 only)

Seminar: Q#9: What do you think is the best way to improve your moral character?

### **Week 12: What are Right Actions?**

Mar.28–**TEST #3**

Mar.30 – Good Friday, no class

No seminars

### **Week 13: How Do I Live My Life Authentically?**

April 4 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Kierkegaard, 9.5 (p.523-530 only)

April 6 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Nietzsche, 9.5 (p.530-535 only)

Seminar: Q#10: Are you living an authentic existence? What does this even mean?

### **Week 14: Existentialist Ethics cont.**

April 11 – Authenticity: Existentialist Ethics, Sartre, 9.5 (p.535-542 only), and Camus, 9.5 (p.543-545)

April 13 - **TEST #4**

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

- a) 3 in-class tests worth 20% each (60%)
- b) 1 in-class last test worth 15%
- 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, but there is one throwaway)
- e) class participation/group discussion: 5%

## **6. Grading System**

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

## 7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

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>

## 8. College Supports, Services and Policies



### Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

### College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

### College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

### A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

#### 1. Standard Grading System (GPA)

| Percent age | 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 |                                      | 1 |
| 0-49  | F | Minimum level has not been achieved. | 0 |

## 2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|--------------|---|
| COM          | The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.   |
| DST          | The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement. |
| NC           | The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.  |

## B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| <b>Temporary Grade</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|------------------------|---|
| 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.   |
| 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. |

**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 medical documentation is provided.

**Cell phones:** students are not permitted to use cell phones in class. **Remember to TURN OFF your cell phone for 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, or check D2L