



**CAMOSUN COLLEGE**  
*School of Arts & Science*  
*Department of Humanities*

**PHIL-290-001**  
**Special Topics in**  
**Philosophy**  
**Winter 2019**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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

□□□ *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	Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am		
Office	Young 319		
Phone	(250) 370-3360		
Email	noelju@camosun.bc.ca		

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes –**

Upon completion of this course a 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 Texts:**

Seneca: Dialogues and Essays, trans. John Davie, Oxford World's Classics,  
Meditations, Marcus Aurelius, Dover Thrift Editions, Epictetus, Enchiridion, Stoicism Today: Selected Writings, ed. Patrick Ussher

**4. Course Schedule and Content**

Lectures: Mondays, 8:30 am – 9:20 am, Y 316  
              Wednesdays, 8:30 am – 9:20 am, Y 316  
Seminars: Mondays, Group A: 9:30 am – 10:20 am, Y 316  
              Wednesdays, Group B: 9:30 am – 10:20 am, Y 316

### **Week 1: Introduction to Stoicism**

1/7 What is Stoicism? Stoic Warriorship

1/9 Stoicism Today (ST), preface and intro, p.15-20, ST, "Stoicism 101", p.21-22, ST, "Getting Practical Philosophy into the Classroom", p.122-127

Seminar: Discussion of Stoic practice and instructions for seminar exercises

### **Week 2: Living in Accordance with Nature**

1/14 Epictetus, chapters 1-10, ST, "Stoic Teaching and Stoic Control", p.119-121

1/16 Epictetus, chapters 11-19

Seminar: #1: "The Control Exercise"

### **Week 3: Understanding Ephemerality**

1/21 Seneca, intro, and "On the Shortness of Life"

1/23 Marcus Aurelius (MA), intro, and Books II, III, and IX:19, ST, "On Death Acceptance", p.56-58

Seminar: #2: "Universal Metamorphosis Exercise"

### **Week 4: Stoic Philanthropy and Cosmopolitanism**

1/28 ST, "The Stoics on the Community of Humankind", p.28-32 and "On the Motivations of a Stoic", p.37-38

1/30 MA, IV:3, VI:39, VII:5, 19,22, VIII:26, XI:9

Seminar: #3: "The Circles of Hierocles Exercise"

### **Week 5: Premeditation of Adversity**

2/4 **TEST #1**

2/6 MA, Books IV, V, VI

Seminar: #4: "*Premeditatio Malorum* Exercise"

### **Week 6: Stoic Advice on Dealing with Insults and Anger**

2/11 Seneca, "On Anger", chapters 1-13, 25-43 (especially 38 and 43)

2/13 MA, Book IX:42, II:1, Epictetus, reread chapters 4, 5, 10, read chapters 20-28, 42 Seminar: #5: brief in-class written response to video on Seneca

### **Week 7: No classes - reading break Feb.18-22**

### **Week 8: The Stoic Character**

2/25 ST, "Stoics are not Unemotional", p.33-36, Epictetus, chapters 28-

31 2/27 ST, "Stoicism and Star Trek", p.196-201, Epictetus, chapters 32-41

Seminar: #6: "Speak Less about Yourself Exercise"

### **Week 9: Stoic Tranquility**

3/4 Seneca, "On the Tranquility of the Mind", p.112-120, ST, "Happiness for Sale - What Would Seneca Say?" p.64-66

3/6 Seneca, "On the Tranquility of the Mind", p.121-139, ST, "Does Stoicism Work?" p.128-135

Seminar: #7: "The Wand of Hermes Exercise"

### **Week 10: The Nature of the Good**

3/11 MA, Books VII and VIII, ST, "Core Ideas of Stoic Ethics in Marcus Aurelius", p.23-26

3/13 MA, Books IX and X

Seminar: #8: "The View from Above Exercise"

### **Week 11: Fatalism and Letting Go of the Past**

3/18 MA, Book XI and XII, ST, "Was There a Stoic Mindfulness?" p.161-166

3/20 **TEST #2**

Seminar: #9: "The *Amor Fati* Exercise"

### **Week 12: The Discipline of Action**

3/25 Epictetus, chapters 43-52

3/27 ST, "A Simplified Modern Approach to Stoicism", p.42-45, "What Can the Stoics Do For Us? p.46-55, "Gratitude and Wonder", p.59-63

Seminar: #10: "The Reserve Clause Exercise"

### **Week 13: The Discipline of Judgment**

04/1 ST, "Control Your Emotions", p.72-75, "My Return to Mental Health with CBT and Stoicism", p.142-150, "The Stoic Doctor", p.97-100

04/3 ST, "The Greatest of All Struggles", p.94-96, "Fatherhood and Stoic Acceptance", p.112-114, "My Experiences of Stoicism", p.76-80

Seminar: #11: "The Exercise of Physical Definition"

### **Week 14: The Happy Life**

4/8 Seneca, "On the Happy Life", p.85-98

4/10 ST, "I Think Every Child Should Learn Stoic Philosophy", p.192-195

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

- a) 2 tests: 30% (15% each)
- b) final exam (cumulative): 25% (date tba, final exam period)
- c) seminar attendance: 10%
- d) seminar exercises: 20% (2% each, only accepted while attending the relevant seminar - one throwaway, late or emailed assignments NOT accepted)
- e) homework: 10% (can only be submitted in class on the due date, emailed homework not accepted, late homework not accepted, no exceptions)
- f) class discussion facilitator: 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)

<b>Percent age</b>	<b>Gra de</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Equival en cy</b>
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.
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 final grade is assigned.
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 are permitted in cases of illness or personal crisis only. A make-up test will not be scheduled until proper documentation is provided.

**Cell phones:** cell phones must be TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY during class time.