



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Humanities

PHIL-100-001
Introduction to Philosophy: Classics
Winter, 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

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.

1. Instructor Information

Instructor	Dr. Joseph Van Weelden
Office Hours	Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 pm to 2 pm
Office	Young 226
Phone	(250) 370-3392
Email	WeeldenJ@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:** a) The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas, John Chaffee, 4th edition
b) Other readings are posted or linked on the class D2L page.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Lectures: Mondays, 2:30 pm - 3:20 pm (Y-317)
Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm (Y-317)

Seminars: Group A: Mondays, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm (Y-317)
Group B: Wednesdays, 3:30 pm - 4:20 pm (Y-317)

Reading Assignments

Week 1: What is Philosophy?

Jan.7 – 1.1 Why Study Philosophy? (pp.3-6), 1.2 Defining Philosophy (pp.6-9)

Jan.9 – 1.3 Thinking Philosophically (pp.9-17), 1.4 Understanding Arguments (pp.21-30)

Week 2: What is the Philosopher's Way?: Socrates and the Examined Life

Jan.14 – 2.1 Socrates: A Model For Humanity (pp.57-61), 2.3 Socrates's Central Concern: The Soul (pp.68-72)

Jan.16 – 2.4 The Trial and Death of Socrates (pp. 72-90)

Seminar: Q#1: Is Socrates relevant today?

Week 3: Who are You? Part 1: Consciousness

Jan.21 – 3.4 Descartes (pp.111-118), Elisabeth of Bohemia's Letter to Descartes (D2L)

Jan. 23– 3.9 Ryle (pp.137-143), 3.10 Physicalism (pp. 143-152)

Seminar: Q#2: Is your mind just your brain?

Week 4: Who Are You? Part 2: Identity

Jan. 28 – **TEST #1**

Jan. 30 – 3.5 Locke (pp.119-123), 3.6 Hume (pp.123-126), 3.12 Buddhist Concepts of the Self (pp.159-161)

Seminar: Q#3: Do you have a self?

Week 5: How Can We Know the Nature of Reality? Part 1: Plato and Aristotle

Feb.4 – 5.2 Plato (pp.239-249),

Feb.6 – 5.3 Aristotle (pp. 249-256)

Seminar: Q#4: Are Plato's Forms or Aristotle's forms a better description of fundamental reality?

Week 6: What is Real? What is True? Part 1: The Skeptical Challenge

Feb.11 No Class-Family Day

Feb.13 – 6.2 Locke (pp.287-292), 6.4 Hume (pp.305-315)

Seminar; Q#5: What (if anything) do you know with certainty? How do you know it?

Week 7: What is Real? What is True? Part 2: Responses to Skepticism

Feb.18 – Moore 'Proof of an External World' (D2L), 6.5 Kant (pp.315-320)

Feb.20 – 6.5 Kant (pp.320-333)

Seminar: Q#6: Does Kant succeed in answering the skeptical challenge?

Week 8: Is There A Spiritual Reality?

Feb.25 – **TEST #2**

Feb.27 – 7.4 Can We Prove the Existence of God? (pp.376-385), 7.5 The Problem of Evil (pp.388-394)

Seminar: Q#8: What is the most convincing argument for the existence of God?

Week 9: Are You Free?

March 4- Chart on p.175, 4.2 Determinism (pp. 176-185), 4.3 Compatibilism (pp.185-190)

March 6- 4.4 Indeterminism and Libertarianism (pp.193-203), 4.5 A Feminist Analysis of Freedom (pp.213-217)

Seminar: Q#9: Are you the master of your fate?

Week 10: Are There Moral Truths?

March 11– 8.1 Your Moral Compass (pp.427-435), 8.2 Ethical Relativism (pp. 435-445)

March 13– 8.3 Ethical Absolutism (pp.445-454)

Seminar: Q#9: Are there any absolute moral truths?

Week 11: What Are Right Actions?

March 18 –9.2 Character:Virtue Ethics (pp. 482-493)

March 20 –9.3 Maxims: Duty to Moral Laws (pp.493-506)

Seminar: Q#10: What do you think is the best way to improve your moral character?

Week 12: What Are Right Actions cont.?

March 25- **TEST #3**

March 27– 9.4 Consequences: Utilitarianism (506-518), Leguin ‘The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas’ (D2L)

Seminar: Q#11: Would you walk away from Omelas?

Week 13: Ethics and Justice

April 1 – 9.6 Empathy: The Ethics of Care (545-549), 9.4 Singer on Animals (pp.518-522)

April 3 – 10.3 Locke and Rawls (pp.574-581, 583-587)

Seminar: Q#12: What is the most important thing we can do to make Canada a more just society?

Week 14: Justice cont.

April 8 – 10.6 Justice is What Promotes Gender Equality, Mills ‘Racial Justice’ (pp.605-615, D2L)

April 10 –**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)

<i>Percent age</i>	<i>Gra de</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Grade Point Equivalen cy</i>
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

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>
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.

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
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
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