



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Humanities

PHIL-116-001
Philosophy Through Film
Fall 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

(a) Instructor	Sandy Bannikoff
(b) Office hours	Monday 12 – 3; available for appointments Monday 9 – 12, Tues and Thurs at 1 pm; other days and times can also be arranged
(c) Location	Y232
(d) Phone	250-370-3389
(e) E-mail	bannikof@camosun.bc.ca
(f) Website	

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe ideas and arguments as expressed through film and other media such as television, music videos, and video shorts. Relate these ideas and arguments to their classical presentations.
2. Identify the ideas that make certain films significant.
3. Describe fundamental philosophical themes arising within films, including themes with an indigenous focus such as indigenization, colonization, decolonization, reconciliation, resistance, and equality.
4. Demonstrate written and oral communication skills.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: Coursepack, available at Landsdown campus bookstore
- (b) Other: Films are all on reserve at the Library, Landsdown Campus

4. Course Content and Schedule: Subject to Change

Week One

Sept 3: General Introduction, Administration

Sept 5: Introductory Lecture

For Week Two.

View: Five Short Films, a link is posted on D2L

1. *Flood* by Amanda Strong"
2. *Walking is Medicine* by Alanis Obomswain
3. *Marco's Oreintal Noodles* by Howie Shia
4. *Pink:Diss* by John Greyson
5. *Brave Overseas* by Yung Chang

Read: 1. "Keep Calm and Decolonize: Buffy Sainte-Marie's call for Canada to 'imagine new ways forward'", CBC, December 4, 2017 (This is the article in which the short films are collected)

2. Boethius (Unless otherwise noted, the readings and their complete citations are in the coursepack.)

Week Two

Sept 10: Discussion of the Five Shorts

Sept 12: Introduction to Week Three

For Week Three:

View: *The Reel Injun*. Dirs. Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge, Jeremiah Hayes.

Read: 1. Dick Lourie. "forgiving our fathers"

2. Vine Deloria Jr. "American Indian Metaphysics"

Week Three

Sept 17: Discussion

Sept 19: Introduction to Week Four

For Week Four:

View: *The Revenant*. Dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu.

Read: 1. George Catlin, "Letter, No. 1"

2. Seamus Heaney, "Saint Francis and the Birds"

Week Four

Sept 24: Discussion

Sept 26: Introduction to Week Five

For Week Five:

View: *The Journals of Knud Rasmussen*. Dirs. Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn.

Read: 1. Paul Boghossian, "The Maze of Moral Relativism",

2. Jorges Luis Borges, "The Witness"

Week Five

Oct 1: Discussion

Oct 3: Introduction to Week Six

For Week Six:

View: *Watership Down*. Dir. Martin Rosen, John Hubley.

Read: 1. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapter 13

2. Henry David Thoreau. "The Transcendental View"

Week Six

First Writing Assignment Due October 8th

Oct 8: Discussion

Oct 10: Introduction to Week Seven

For Week Seven

View: 1. "The West" Contrapoints, by Natalie Wynn – link on D2L

2. To Be Announced

Week Seven

Oct 15: Discussion

Oct 17: Introduction to Week Eight

For Week Eight:

View: *District 9*. Dir. Neill Blomkamp.

Read: 1. Peter Singer. "Is Racial Discrimination Arbitrary?"

2. Slavoj Žižek, "Mandela's Socialist Failure"

3. Thomas Tranströmer, "Further In"

Week Eight

Oct 23: Discussion

Oct 25: Introduction to Week Ten

For Week Nine:

View: *Do The Right Thing*. Dir. Spike Lee.

Optional Reading: Malcom X. "After the Bombing"

Read: 2. George Yancy, "Walking While Black in the "White Gaze""

3. Danez Smith. "Dinosaurs in the hood"

Week Nine

Oct 29: Discussion

Oct 31: Introduction to Week Ten

For Week Ten

View: *Hannah Arendt*. Dir. Margarethe von Trotta.

Read: 1. Hannah Arendt, Table of Contents

2. Viktor E. Frankl, Selections,

3. Roméo Dellaire, selection

4. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, selection

Week Ten

Nov 5: Discussion

Nov 7: Introduction to Week Eleven

For Week Eleven:

View: *If a Tree Falls*. Dir. Marshall Curry.

Read: 1. Aldo Leopold. "An Ethic for Man-Land Relations"

2. Jan Zwicky. "Broke Fiddle Blues"

Week Eleven

Second Writing Assignment Due November 12th

Nov 12: Discussion

Nov 14: Introduction to Week Twelve

For Week Twelve:

View: *Downsizing*. Dir. Alexander Payne.

Read: 1. Thomas Robert Malthus, selection

2. Benjamin Hale, "The Veil of Opulence"

Week Twelve

Nov 19: Discussion

Nov 21: Introduction to Week Thirteen

For Week Thirteen

View: *Life of Pi*. Dir. Ang Lee.

Read: 1. John Wisdom, selection

2. Jorges Luis Borges, "Ragnarök"

Week Thirteen

Nov 26: Discussion

Nov 28: Introduction to Week Fourteen

For Week Fourteen

View: *Smoke Signals*. Dir. Chris Eyre.

Read: 1. Cheshire Calhoun, selection

2. Jan Zwicky, "The Art of Fugue"

Week Fourteen

Final Writing Assignment Due December 5th

Dec 3: Discussion

Dec 5: Discussion

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)
 - (a) Three writing assignments assignments, 60%
 1. Due October 8
 3. Due November 12
 4. Due December 5
 - (b) Seminar Participation, 40%
 1. worksheets 20%,
 2. class community 20%

6. Grading System

x	Standard Grading System (GPA)
	Competency Based Grading System

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

Recommended Reading on Essays: This is the last item in the coursepack.

Lewis Vaughn. "Defending a Thesis in an Argumentative Essay", in Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays, Oxford University Press, 2006 (55-84).

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)

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		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

Grade	Description
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 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.