



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

**PHIL-102-001**  
**Introduction to Philosophy: Ideas**  
**Winter 2020**

## 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

(a) Instructor	Megan Shelstad
(b) Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 – 12:15 and 2:30 - 3:15
(c) Location	Young 312
(d) Phone	3951 Alternative: _____
(e) E-mail	shelstad@camosun.bc.ca

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### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Summarize the central philosophical issues within both the Continental (i.e., French and German) and Analytic (i.e., British) traditions.
2. Outline critical objections to both classical and contemporary philosophical theories.
3. Argue a philosophical position and support it with good reasons.
4. Identify the relevance of philosophical problems to everyday problems concerning beliefs and values, knowledge, personal identity, and the nature of reality.

### 3. Required Materials

Texts: coursepack available in the bookstore

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:20 Young 316

Seminar A: Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:20 Young 316

Seminar B: Thursdays 1:30 – 2:20 Young 316

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

- (a) **Assignments: 30% (3 marks each) TEN** weekly commentaries (minimum - 1/2 page, maximum - 1 page, single-spaced, typed) – read the assigned selection and bring to seminar your prepared thoughts, paying careful attention to the **arguments** offered and your evaluation of them as well as the rules of good grammar, spelling and composition. (**3 - Excellent, 2 - Average, 1 - Needs work**)

**Use the template for Argument Analysis at the front of your coursepack**

- (b) **Quizzes: 10%** (6 quizzes, 2 marks each, best 5, **no make-ups**)
- (c) **Exams: 20%** midterm test  
30% final test (in exam period in April)
- (d) **Other: 10%** seminar attendance and participation

## 6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

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

Coursepack materials

## 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.

**Philosophy 102 - 001 READING SCHEDULE (to be done BEFORE class)**  
**\*\*\*BRING COURSEPACK TO CLASS – schedule subject to change if needed\*\*\***

**Quizzes will be held on THURSDAYS at the END OF CLASS (usually)**  
**HOMEWORK DUE ON TUESDAYS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (hard copy typed)**

**\*\*\*Phil 102 – 001 is not a D2L class\*\*\***

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Remember to turn OFF your cell phone for class and put it away. Laptops, ipads, etc. may be used for note taking only. See “Classroom Technology Use.”

[Camosun.ca/learn/school/business/current-students/documents/ClassroomTechnologyUse.pdf](http://Camosun.ca/learn/school/business/current-students/documents/ClassroomTechnologyUse.pdf)

Missing classes: if you miss a class due to illness or some other reason, it is not necessary to notify me unless a test (not a quiz) is missed. It is the student’s responsibility to find out from another student what was covered.

Check your reading schedule please.

Policy on missed tests (not quizzes): make-up tests will be permitted only in cases of illness or personal crisis. Documentation is required.

Disruptive behaviour, such as carrying on conversations when the instructor or others are speaking, is a sign of disrespect and is not acceptable in class.

**NO EMAILED/LATE HOMEWORK ACCEPTED.**

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**Week 1: Jan. 7 – Introduction, Jan. 9 -- Socrates (Plato): “*The Apology*”**

**Seminar: questionnaire**

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**The Meaning of Life**

**Week 2: Jan. 14 – Socratic method, argument, Jan. 16 -- questioning the question**

**Seminar: Voltaire “The Good Brahmin” (internet, see homework instructions)**

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**Week 3: Jan. 21 – **\*\*QUIZ 1\*\*** (Socrates, Voltaire), pessimism, Jan. 23 -- religious view**

**Seminar: Leo Tolstoy “My Confession” (see homework instructions)**

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**Week 4: Jan. 28 – secular humanism, Jan. 30 – existentialism, **\*\*QUIZ 2\*\*** (meaning of life)**

**Seminar: Hazel Barnes “An Existentialist Ethics” (see homework instructions)**

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**Human Nature**

**Week 5: Feb. 4 – Freud, evolution, Feb. 6 -- psychological and ethical egoism**

**Seminar: “Kanzi, the rational chimpanzee” (answer the 3 questions at the end)**  
**Human Nature cont'd.**

**Week 6: Feb. 11 – Mencius, Butler, Feb. 13 -- Xun-Zi, Smith**

**\*\*QUIZ 3\*\* (egoism)**

**Seminar: "The Purpose of Business" (answer the 3 questions at the end)**

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**Week 7: \*\*\*Feb. 17 is Family Day and Feb. 18 to Feb. 21 is Reading week, NO CLASSES\*\*\***

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**Week 8: Feb. 25 – \*\*\*MIDTERM TEST (Tuesday)\*\*\* Feb. 27 -- Chuang-tzu**

**Seminar: NO seminar**

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**What do we owe society?**

**Week 9: Mar. 3 – Crito (Plato), Mar.5 – King, \*\*QUIZ 4\*\* (Chuang-tzu, Crito and MLK)**

**Seminar: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (see homework instructions)**

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**Week 10: Mar. 10 – Malcolm X, bell hooks, Mar. 12 – Locke, \*\*QUIZ 5\*\* (X, hooks, Locke)**

**Seminar: "What Libertarianism Is" (see homework instructions)**

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**Individual Rights and Freedom**

**Week 11: Mar. 17 – Goldman, Mar. 19 – "Is freedom real?" (free will vs. determinism)**

**Seminar: Amartya Sen "Property and Hunger" (see homework instructions)**

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**Free will and Determinism**

**Week 12: Mar. 24 – Skinner, Mar. 26 -- \*\*QUIZ 6\*\* (Goldman, Skinner, free will)**

**Seminar: Sartre "Existentialism is a Humanism" (see homework instructions)**

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**Week 13: Mar. 31 – "Excusability" (Velasquez), Apr. 2 -- Taylor on authenticity**

**Seminar: "Five Insights of Existentialism" (your own thoughts and feelings)**

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**Week 14: Apr. 7 – Kolak & Martin, Apr. 9 -- loose ends and review, NO Seminar**

**\*\*\*Good Friday (Apr. 10) and Easter Monday (Apr. 13)\*\*\***

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM IN EXAM PERIOD\*\*\***

## WHAT DO I THINK? Questionnaire on the Meaning of Life

	Agree	Disagree
1. When someone asks "What is the meaning of life?" I have no idea what they are asking.		
2. The search for the meaning of life is a natural human quest, but it is like searching for the fountain of youth. In both cases, the object of the search will never be found.		
3. Everything that happens in my life was meant to happen to fulfill some larger purpose. The most important goal in life is to discover what that purpose is.		
4. If I can say at the end of my life, "I've had my ups and downs, my moments of happiness and moments of sadness, but, overall, life is good," then I have found "the meaning of life."		
5. People are born, they sustain themselves for 80 years by eating, working, and sleeping, and then they die. That is all that can be said about the meaning of life.		
6. People may feel as though they have found the meaning of life, but it is possible they are mistaken about this feeling, because human existence has an objective purpose that is independent of human opinions about it.		
7. There is no single answer to the question of the meaning of life that applies to everyone, because each individual has to seek his or her own personal meaning.		
8. If people don't obtain what they want in life, they will be frustrated. However, if they do get what they want, they either will be bored or will develop new desires and, hence, new occasions for frustration. It seems clear that in the final analysis, frustration or boredom and meaningless suffering is people's lot in life.		
9. Unless they are completely numb to their own existence, most people experience a vague emptiness and yearning throughout their life, because they are trying to fill that void with that which is transitory and finite when only an eternal and infinite meaning will satisfy them.		
10. It is incorrect to speak of "seeking the meaning of life," because this statement implies that it is out there, like an Easter egg, waiting for people to find it. Instead, each person should speak of "creating meaning for my life." People are like artists facing blank canvases, considering what work of personal creation they will find satisfying.		