



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Humanities

PHIL-116-D01
Philosophy Through Film
Fall 2020

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	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 pm to 4 pm
(c) Location	D2L Collaborate
(d) Phone	788-577-6432 (no voice mail, but students may text a message for a call back)
(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

Online: Required weekly readings are attached to each week in our D2L content.

Films: All required films are available at Camosun Library, as DVDs or through streaming services: Kanopy, and Audio Cine Films are services purchased by Camosun Library; 'Hoopla' is the service through the Greater Victoria Public Library; 'NFB' (National Film Board) and 'CBC Gem' are free Canadian streaming sites. Many of the films are available to rent online from various vendors. Our library has Covid opening plans; however, students may find spending some money on movie rental is preferable. Some online sources for films are noted below, under each film.

4. Course Content and Schedule: This course is asynchronous, and online.

Weekly Content is Subject to Change

The films and readings for each week are listed below. Each week at least two lecture videos and two discussion threads will be posted on D2L. There is more information about the discussions below.

WEEK ONE September 9

Films: CBC Gem, "Keep Calm and Decolonize"

View: **Five Short Films**

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

Read: The link to this article, which also has the films is in D2L, Week One.

"Keep Calm and Decolonize: Buffy Sainte-Marie's call for Canada to 'imagine new ways forward'", CBC, December 4, 2017

WEEK TWO September 16

***The Examined Life.* Dir. Astra Taylor. Zeitgeist, 2010.**
(NFB, Hoopla,)

Boethius. "Book I, I,II,III," in The Consolation of Philosophy, Penguin Books, London, 1999 (3-8).

WEEK THREE September 23

***The Reel Injun.* Dirs. Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge, Jeremiah Hayes.**
Domino Film. 2009. Film.
(Vimeo)

Dick Lourie. "forgiving our fathers", in Ghost Radio. Hanging Loose Press, 1998.
(Printed from https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/cae_core/Links/Lourie_poem.htm)

Vine Deloria Jr. "American Indian Metaphysics", in Power and Place: Indian Education in America, Vine Deloria, Jr. and Danile R. Wildcat, , American Indian Graduate Center and Fulcrum Resources, Golden Colorado, 2001 (1-6).

WEEK FOUR September 30

First Choice

***The Journals of Knud Rasmussen.* Dirs. Zacharias Kunuk and Norman Cohn.**
Alliance Atlantis. 2006. Film. (I Tunes)

Alternative:

***Atanarjuat The Fast Runner.* Dirs. Zacharias Kunuk. Odeon Films 2001. Film.**
(NFB Campus)

Jorges Luis Borges. "The Witness", in Dreamtigers, trans. Mildred Boyer and Harold Morland, University of Texas Press, Austin 2004 (39).

Maya Angelou. "Still I Rise", in And Still I Rise, Random House, New York 1987 (41-42)

WEEK FIVE October 7

First Choice

***The Revenant.* Dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu. 20th Century fox. 2015. Film.**
(Prime)

Alternative

Ken Burns - The West. Ep. 02: Empire Upon The Trails (1806 – 1848)

(Youtube)

George Catlin. "Letter, No. 1", in North American Indians, Ed. Peter Matthiessen, Penguin Books, New York 1989 (1-8).

Seamus Heaney. "Saint Francis and the Birds", in Death of a Naturalist, Faber and Faber, London 1991 (40).

WEEK SIX October 14

First Choice:

Life of Pi. Dir. Ang Lee. 20th Century Fox. 2012. Film.
(Prime)

Alternative:

Glory at Sea, Dir Benh Zeitlin,
(Youtube)

John Wisdom. "Gods" in Contemporary Analytic and Linguistic Philosophies, Second Edition, Ed. E.D. Klemke, Prometheus Books, New York 2000 (282-285).

Jorges Luis Borges, "Ragnarök", Labyrinths: Selected Stories and Other Writings, Eds. Donald A. Yates and James E. Irby, New Directions Publishing Corporation, New York 1964 (240-241).

WEEK SEVEN October 21

The West, Contrapoints, Natalie Wynn. Youtube, July 2018.
(Youtube)

Schitt's Creek, "Meet the Parents" Season Five, Episode 11 Dir. Jordan Canning,
(CBC, Gem; Prime)

WEEK EIGHT October 28

District 9. Dir. Neill Blomkamp. Sony Pictures. 2009. Film.
(Audio Cine Films)

Paul Boghossian. "The Maze of Moral Relativism", in The Stone Reader, Eds. Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley, Liveright Publishing Corporation, New York 2016 (521-525).

Thomas Tranströmer, "Further In", in Thomas Tranströmer: Selected Poems, Ed. Robert Hass, translator of selection Robert Bly, Harper Collins, The Ecco Press, New Jersey 1987 (110).

WEEK NINE November 4

First Choice:

***Do The Right Thing*. Spike Lee, Universal Pictures. 1989. Film.**
(Audio Cine Films)

Alternatives:

***Malcom X*. Spike Lee, Warner Bros., 1992. Film.**
(Youtube, rent)

***Malxom X: Make it Plain*. Dir. Orlando Bagwell, PBS. 1994.**
(You Tube)

***Selma*. Dir. Ava DuVernay, 20th Century Fox. 2014. Film.**
(Prime, Youtube rent)

George Yancy, "Walking While Black in the "White Gaze"", in The Stone Reader, Eds. Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley, Liveright Publishing Corporation, New York 2016 (649-654).

Danez Smith. "Dinosaurs in the hood" in *Poetry*, December 2014. Printed from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/57585/dinosaurs-in-the-hood>

WEEK TEN November 11

***Hannah Arendt*. Dir. Margarethe vonTrotta. Zeitgeist. 2012. Film.**
(Kanopy; note that some sources do not have English subtitles for the scenes spoken in German)

Hannah Arendt. "Contents", in Eichmann in Jerusalem, Penguin Books, New York 2006 (v).

Viktor E. Frankl. Man's Search For Meaning, Beacon Press, Boston 2006 (65-69, 80-84).

Roméo Dellaire. Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda, Vintage Canada Edition Random House, Toronto 2004 (302-303).

Alexander Solzhenitsyn. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, Bantom Dell, A Division of Random House Inc, New York 2005 (121-122).

WEEK ELEVEN November 18

If a Tree Falls. Dir. Marshall Curry. Oscilloscope. 2011. Film.
(Hoopla)

Aldo Leopold. "An Ethic for Man-Land Relations", in The American Environment: Readings in the History of Conservation, ed. Roderick Nash, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Reading Massachusetts 1968 (105-108).

WEEK TWELVE November 25

First Choice:

***Downsizing*. Dir. Alexander Payne. Paramount Pictures. 2017. Film.**
(Prime Video, Youtube, rent)

Or

***Rachel Carson's Silent Spring*, Dir. Michelle Ferrari, 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation, 2017. Film.**
(Hoopla)

Thomas Robert Malthus. "An Essay on the Principle of Population as it Affects the Future Improvement of Society", in Readings in Ecology, Ed. Edward J. Kormondy, Prentice-Hall Inc., New Jersey 1965 (62-63).

Benjamin Hale, "The Veil of Opulence", in The Stone Reader, Eds. Peter Catapano and Simon Critchley, Liveright Publishing Corporation, New York 2016 (593-597).

WEEK THIRTEEN December 2

***Smoke Signals*. Dir. Chris Eyre. Miramax. 1998. Film.**

(Hoopla)

Cheshire Calhoun, "Standing for Something" in *The Journal of Philosophy*, Volume XCII, No. 5, May 1995 (257-260).

WEEK FOURTEEN December 9

***The Seventh Seal.* Ingmar Bergman. Sweden, 1957. Film.**

(Kanopy)

Jan Zwicky. "The Art of Fugue", in *Forge*, Gaspereau Press Limited, Nova Scotia 2011 (48-57).

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Class Community.....	20%
Discussion Lead (x3)	15%
Three Short Essays.....	60%
Essay Bonus: Best Essay Grade, additional.....	5%

1. Due October 7
2. Due November 4
3. Due December 14

6. Grading System

x	Standard Grading System (GPA)
	Competency Based Grading System

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

Class Community: This requires students to keep up with the course work and participate in the discussion forums. When everyone does the readings, and assignments, watches the videos, and gives some thought to the material, and then uses all this work to inform contributions to the discussion, the quality of the forums is elevated. This benefits us all, and establishes the foundation of our capacity for critical thought.

Deadlines: Contact me as soon as you are aware that you either will or have missed a deadline for the submission of a paper. If you need a different due date, or because you have to work, or you have 5 tests in two days, or for personal reasons, make arrangements with me beforehand to reschedule. It honestly is no problem to make arrangements early. Last minute extensions will be permitted only in cases of illness or crisis. In the case of a personal crisis, students will be referred to the Camosun Counseling services.

Discussions:

Discussion threads will typically be open for posting for one week. There will be new ones every week; so there will always be a discussion to look in on and contribute to. There is more information about this in the introductory lecture video, posted in Week One on D2L.

I will sort students into groups of 8 to 10 people, so as to make keeping track of the discussion contributions manageable for students. Please let me know if for any reason you would like to move to a different group.

Regard the posts you make here as your professional student work, so to speak; this means they are semi-formal, no slang, no swearing, correct grammar and spelling (to the best of your ability). There is lots of room for friendliness; we can use each other's names, for example, and chit chat from time to time. Write as if we are speaking to each other face to face, where, as pillars of friendliness, courtesy and respect are constantly mandatory, and where we are serious about learning. I reserve the right to remove posts that violate our Student Conduct Policy, or cause legitimate complaints.

Discussion Lead Assignment At the beginning of the semester, you will sign up to be "responsible" for three films and their assigned readings. You will have two tasks:

- 1) You will begin and guide our discussions by asking two questions in the discussion section of the course. This is the public part of the assignment.
- 2) You will also answer one of your questions briefly. Your answer is uploaded to the assignment folder and is private.

Please read through the films and readings above and choose your top three choices for this assignment. I will do my best to accommodate everyone, but may not be able to do so. We need to aim for an even distribution of discussion threads. Email me your preferences by September 16th, and I will write who is

responsible for each reading in our course calendar to help you keep track of the dates. There is a separate assignment page attached on D2L.

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.