

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-100: Introduction to Philosophy: Classics

CLASS SECTION: 001A/001B

TERM: 2021 Fall

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-Person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here. Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dustin Zielke

EMAIL: zielked@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Y302

OFFICE PHONE: 250-370-3964

HOURS: Fridays 10:30AM – 11:20AM (in-person or by appointment online)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to classical philosophical works concerning central philosophical issues such as the nature and possibility of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of morality and justice, and the mind/body relationship.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, (eds.) John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer, 9th Edition. (Available at Camosun Bookstore in physical or electronic versions.)

In addition, I will post other required materials on D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Seminar
Week 1: What is Philosophy?	Sept. 8: Textbook, "Introduction" (pp. 1–7); Bertrand Russel, "The Value of Philosophy" (pp. 29–32) Sept. 10: Louise M. Antony, "For the Love of Reason" (pp. 139–151)	Seminar Participation
Week 2: God and Belief	Sept. 15: Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" (pp. 52–53); Aquinas, "The Existence of God" (pp. 54–56); William Paley, "Natural Theology" (pp. 57–61); <u>Recommended</u> : Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion" (pp. 74–84) Sept. 17: William James, "The Will to Believe" (pp. 62–73); <u>Recommended</u> : Richard Rorty, "Anticlericalism and Atheism" (D2L); Vine Deloria, Jr., Selection from <i>God is Red: A Native View of Religion</i> (D2L)	Seminar Participation
Week 3: The Problem of Evil	Sept. 22: Marilyn Adams, "Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God" (pp. 114–120); Stewart Sutherland, "Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God" (pp. 122–129) Sept. 24: Leibniz, "God, Evil and the Best of All Possible Worlds" (pp. 104–106); Eleonore Stump, "The Mirror of Evil" (pp. 130–136)	Seminar Participation

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Seminar
Week 4: Reality, Knowledge, and the Death of God	Sept. 29: Plato, "Allegory of the Cave" (pp. 157–161); <u>Recommended</u> : Plato, Selection from <i>Meno</i> (D2L); Plato, Selection from <i>Phaedo</i> (D2L); Plato, Selection from <i>The Symposium</i> (D2L) Oct. 1: Friedrich Nietzsche, "The Madman" (D2L)	Test #1 on Weeks 1–3
Week 5: Reality and Appearance; Knowledge and Skepticism (1)	Oct. 6: Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine" (pp. 162–163); Christopher Grau, "Bad Dreams, Evil Demons, and the Experience Machine: Philosophy and <i>The Matrix</i> " (D2L) Oct. 8: René Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , "Meditations I & II" (pp. 164–169)	Seminar Participation
Week 6: Reality and Appearance; Knowledge and Skepticism (2)	Oct. 13: René Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , "Meditation III" (pp. 169–175) Oct. 15: Hume, "Of Skepticism Regarding the Senses" (D2L)	Seminar Participation
Week 7: The Absurd	Oct. 20: Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus" (pp. 660–661); Richard Taylor, "The Meaning of Human Existence" (pp. 670–686) Oct. 22: Thomas Nagel, "The Absurd" (pp. 662–669)	Seminar Participation
Week 8: What or Who is the Self? Anticipating One's Own Death	Oct. 27: James Baillie, "Existential Shock" (pp. 704–706); Thomas Nagel, "Death" (pp. 699–703) Oct. 29: Dan Moller, "Love and Death" (D2L)	Test #2 on Weeks 4–7
Week 9: What is the Self? Soul, Mind, and Body	Nov. 3: John Perry, "A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality" (pp. 309–329) Nov. 5: David M. Armstrong, "The Nature of Mind" (pp. 250–257); Frank Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know" (pp. 263–266)	Seminar Participation
Week 10: What is the Self? No-Self, Perceptions, and the Lived Body	Nov. 10: J. David Velleman, "So it Goes" (pp. 343–354) Nov. 11: Richard Dreyfus, "Overcoming the Myth of the Mental: How Philosophers can Profit from the Phenomenology of Everyday Expertise" (D2L); <u>Recommended</u> : Dreyfus, "The Return of the Myth of the Mental"; Dreyfus, "Response to McDowell"	Seminar Participation
Week 11: Who am I for Others? Anticipating the Other's Death	Nov. 17: Amy Olberding, "Sorrow and the Sage: Grief in the <i>Zhuangzi</i> " (pp. 716–732); <u>Recommended</u> : Darian Leader, Selection from <i>The New Black: Mourning, Melancholia and Depression</i> Nov. 19: Samuel Scheffler, "The Afterlife" (pp. 742–757)	Test #3 on Weeks 8–10
Week 12: Who am I? Am I Free (for Others)?	Nov. 24: Textbook, "Freedom and Determinism" (pp. 247–248); Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity" (pp. 406–416) Nov. 26: Harry G. Frankfurt, "Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" (pp. 417–423)	Seminar Participation
Week 13: How Should I Live with Others?	Dec. 1: Textbook, "Ethics and Society" (pp. 475–479); Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (pp. 512–519); Onora O'Neill, "Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems" (pp. 537–543) Dec. 3: Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism" (D2L)	Seminar Participation

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	Seminar
Week 14: Death and Meaning in Life	Dec. 8: Jenann Ismael, "The Ethical Importance of Death" (pp. 734–741) Dec. 10: Susan Wolf, "The Meaning of Lives" (pp. 687–698)	Seminar Participation
Final Exam Period	Dec. 13–Dec. 21	Final Exam

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines scan be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Seminar Assignments (10x2%)	20%
In-Class/Seminar Tests (3x20%)	60%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

- **Seminar Assignments:** Students must bring paper and writing materials to each seminar, as other than participating in discussion, the seminar mark will amount to handing in written responses from exercises completed during the seminars. These exercises will allow students to explore some of the ideas discussed in lectures and think about them in the context of their own lives. At the end of each seminar, the student will hand-in their exercise, and I will grade them on a pass-fail basis. There will be no length-requirement for the written responses, but they must demonstrate that the student is reflecting on the material and thinking independently to achieve a passing mark. More instructions will be given in class. There will be 11 seminar assignments, but only 10 will be counted towards your grade. If you complete 11, you will receive an equivalent bonus mark on your final exam.
- **In-Class Tests:** Students will be examined on the readings and material presented in the class notes through in-class tests, administered during the seminars. The tests will be composed of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short/medium-length answer questions. More information will be given during the prep sessions to be offered the seminar the week prior to each test. Please ensure that you attend your seminar the week of the tests.
- **Final Exam:** the final exam will be scheduled during the university's final exam period. It will be similar in format to the in-class tests and it will cover material from weeks 11–14. It will *not be cumulative*. Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure they are available to be physically present once the university has scheduled the final exam. (In other words, do not make plans to be out of town before knowing the final exam schedule.)

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Attendance, Missed Assignments/Tests:

The expectation for the upcoming semester is that instruction and evaluation will occur in-person. Students are expected to attend lectures and seminars and complete the tests and seminar assignments in-class. Other than for exceptional/cautionary circumstances, emergencies, or sickness, no deferrals or make-ups will be offered nor emailed assignments accepted. If a student anticipates missing class/seminar, please ensure to email me in advance, before class/seminar begins to explain and, if reasonable, to make alternative arrangements.

Behaviour Towards Oneself and Others:

Philosophy challenges people and their beliefs, while also providing an open and safe space for all ideas, viewpoints, values, and worldviews to be explored. During this class be patient and kind toward yourselves and others. Allow yourself to feel safe to explore and question your own perspective along with others' perspectives. And feel secure to be questioned by others who have different viewpoints. No one is going to tell you that you must give up your perspective or that you cannot decide for yourself how to understand the world. This is an opportunity for *you*, as a student of philosophy, to reflect on, examine, and perhaps change or reaffirm the most fundamental ideas and values that give meaning to your life. One of the most important lessons philosophy can teach us is how to develop a sense of generosity towards others who do not share the same viewpoint. Be considerate towards each other and do not think of philosophy as a way to win arguments, but as a way to open up constructive dialogue and conversation with people who have differing points of view. Seeking to understand another's perspective will enrich our own perspective and help us understand ourselves, our values, and our ideas better.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous

International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that

course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.