

COURSE SYLLABUS



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

CLASS SECTION: 002

TERM: Fall 2021

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: Anthony J. Gavin

EMAIL: GavinA@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Young 312

HOURS: Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 – 12:30am (online via Zoom or in-person)

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

Textbook: John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. 9th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2022.*

Other readings will be made available on D2L.

*Note: although the publication date says 2022, we have been able to order this textbook from the publisher, and they should be available at the College Bookstore (Lansdowne).

Additional recommended resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP): <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP): <https://iep.utm.edu>

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. Page numbers are for the textbook unless otherwise stated. Readings highlighted in blue will be made available on D2L. Readings marked with an *asterisk are supplemental.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Sept. 7 – 10	<p>UNIT 1: THE VALUE OF PHILOSOPHY Week 1: Introduction: What Is Philosophy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review course syllabus <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell, "The Value of Philosophy," pp. 29 – 32 • Deleuze & Guattari, "Introduction: The Question Then..." (on D2L), pp. 1 – 12 • *Logical Toolkit, pp. 8 – 25 • *Writing Philosophy Papers, pp. 26 – 28 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, "Apology: Defense of Socrates," pp. 33 – 48 	I don't expect you to have read all of the readings for the first day, but they will serve as a general outline for our discussion.
Sept. 13 – 17	<p>Week 2: Why Study Philosophy?</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (on D2L), pp. 50 – 75 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (on D2L), pp. 75 – 100 • *Foucault, "What Is an Author?" (on D2L), pp. 101 – 120 	
Sept. 20 – 24	<p>UNIT 2: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY Week 3: Rationalism and the Understanding</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, "Allegory of the Cave," pp. 157 – 162 • *Nozick, "The Experience Machine," pp. 162 – 163 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," pp. 164 – 175 	
Sept. 27 – Oct. 1	<p>Week 4: Empiricism and Skepticism</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding," pp. 193 – 219 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding," pp. 193 – 219, cont'd • *Kant, <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</i>, Preface (on D2L), pp. 7 – 12 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Oct. 4 – 8	<p>UNIT 3: FREE WILL AND DETERMINISM Week 5: Freedom, Determinism, and Responsibility Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity," pp. 406 – 416 • *Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self," pp. 398 – 405 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spinoza, "Of the Power of the Understanding, or of Human Freedom," Preface (on D2L), pp. 379 – 382 • Hampshire & Sugden, "Spinoza's Theory of Human Freedom" (on D2L), pp. 554-566 • *Leibniz, "On Freedom" (on D2L), pp. 94 – 98 • *Deleuze, "On the Difference Between the <i>Ethics</i> and a Morality" (on D2L), pp. 17 – 29 	<p>FRIDAY: TEST 1 AVAILABLE ON D2L</p>
Oct. 11 – 15	<p>UNIT 4: GOD AND EVIL Week 6: The Existence of God Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," pp. 52 - 24 • Aquinas, "The Existence of God," pp. 54 – 56 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kierkegaard, "The objective problem of Christianity's truth" (on D2L), pp. 19 – 20 • Kierkegaard, "The subjective truth, inwardness; truth is subjectivity" (on D2L), pp. 167 – 172 • *James, "The Will to Believe," pp. 62 – 73 	<p>FRIDAY: TEST 1 DUE</p>
Oct. 18 – 22	<p>Week 7: The Problem of Evil Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leibniz, "God, Evil and the Best of All Possible Worlds," pp. 104 – 106 • *Rowe, "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism," pp. 106 – 114 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levinas, "Reflections on the Philosophy of Hitlerism" (on D2L), pp. 63 – 71 • Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil</i> (on D2L), pp. 20 – 27, 244 – 248, 273 – 274 • *Butler, "Hannah Arendt's Challenge to Adolf Eichmann" (on D2L) 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Oct. 25 – 29	<p>UNIT 5: ETHICS Week 8: Utilitarianism and Deontology Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bentham, “The Principle of Utility,” pp. 481 – 484 • *Mill, “Utilitarianism,” pp. 485 – 501 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, “Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals,” pp. 520 – 536 • *O’Neill, “Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems,” pp. 537 – 543 	
Nov. 1 – 5	<p>Week 9: Virtue Ethics Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics,” pp. 544 – 559 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics,” pp. 544 – 559, cont’d • *Tessman, “Critical Virtue Ethics: Understanding Oppression as Morally Damaging” (on D2L), pp. 1 – 20 	<p>FRIDAY: TEST 2 AVAILABLE ON D2L</p>
Nov. 8 – 12	<p>UNIT 6: EXISTENTIALISM Week 10: Life and Meaning Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus,” pp. 660 – 662 • Sartre, “Existentialism Is a Humanism” (on D2L), pp. 17 – 54 • *Nagel, “The Absurd,” pp. 662 – 669 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sartre, “Existentialism Is a Humanism” (on D2L), pp. 17 – 54, cont’d 	<p>FRIDAY: TEST 2 DUE</p>
Nov. 15 – 19	<p>Week 11: Death and Finitude Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidegger, “The Necessity, Structure, and Priority of the Question of Being” (on D2L), pp. 21 – 35 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidegger, “The Possibility of Experiencing the Death of Others, and the Possibility of Getting a Whole Dasein into our Grasp” (on D2L), pp. 281 – 290 • *Baillie, “Existential Shock,” pp. 704 – 706 • *Ismael, “The Ethical Importance of Death,” pp. 734 – 742 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Nov. 22 – 26	<p>Week 12: Existentialist Ethics</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fanon, “The Lived Experience of the Black Man” (on D2L), pp. 78 – 101 *Levinas, “Ethics and the Face” (on D2L), pp. 197 – 201 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fanon, “The Lived Experience of the Black Man” (on D2L), pp. 78 – 101, cont’d *De Beauvoir, “Freedom and Liberation” (on D2L), pp. 78 – 95 	
Nov. 29 – Dec. 3	<p>UNIT 7: CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Week 13: Feminist Epistemology and Ethics</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haraway, “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective” (on D2L), pp. 575 – 599 *Baier, “The Need for More Than Justice,” pp. 596 – 605 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haraway, “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective” (on D2L), pp. 575 – 599, cont’d *Norlock, “Perpetual Struggle” (on D2L), pp. 6 – 19 	
Dec. 6 – 10	<p>Week 14: What (Else) Is Philosophy?</p> <p>Wednesday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaufman, “Is Philosophy Anything If It Isn’t White?” (on D2L), pp. 1 – 15 <p>Friday Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atleo (Umeek), “Introduction: Development of an Indigenous Theory” (on D2L), pp. xi – xx 	
Dec. 13 – 21	Final Exam Period	FINAL ESSAY DUE FRIDAY, DEC. 17

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 notice is required. Deadlines can 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
Two take-home tests (2 x 30%)	60%
Final paper	30%
Participation (attend 10 seminars at 1% each)	10%
	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>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. COVID-19 Guidelines

There are a number of important policies to keep in mind as we return to in-person teaching. Due to COVID-19, **masks are mandatory in class**. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Also, **no food or drink** are allowed in the classroom. If you need to grab a quick snack or sip of water, please excuse yourself from class. It may be necessary to accommodate short breaks in the middle of class for this purpose. Speaking as your professor, it's quite difficult to lecture for an hour straight without taking a sip of water! Your diligence in respecting these guidelines is warmly appreciated.

For up-to-date information on the college's COVID-19 guidelines, please use the following link:

<https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

2. Course Delivery and Attendance

As soon as class begins on September 8th, you will have access to the course website on **D2L**. Any readings that aren't available in the textbook (highlighted in **blue** on your syllabus) will be made available on D2L. All of your assigned work will also be submitted through D2L. That is the extent of the online component of this course. As long as teaching remains in-person, I won't be posting any additional lecture materials on the course website. This is subject to change in the event that we are forced back to an exclusively online model.

Students are expected to attend two lectures and one seminar in-person each week. Seminar sections have been assigned to you: Group B meets after class on Wednesdays, and Group A meets after class on Fridays. These seminars are intended for group discussion of the week's reading materials. *Please ensure that you are caught up on your readings before you show up to each seminar.*

It is very important to attend the first class. Failure to do so will result in your being automatically dropped from the course. Students on the waitlist are also welcome to attend during the first week. I will take attendance for students on both lists during the first week, but not any further beyond that. This only applies to the lecture portion of the course; rules for seminar attendance are outlined below. If for any reason you are unable to attend during the first week, please let me know as soon as possible.

3. Basis of Evaluation

Your **participation** grade is dependent on seminar attendance: students are expected to attend at least 10 seminars (out of a possible 14), valued at 1% each, for a total of 10% of your final grade. I recognize that there are multiple ways to participate in a course, and that we are not always up to speed 100% of the time that we're physically present. Therefore, participation grades are subject to a final adjustment before final grades are released.

Besides participation, your evaluation criteria for this course consist of **two take-home tests** (2 x 30%) and a **final paper** (30%). Each take-home test will have a selection of essay questions for you to choose from—you will choose and write on *only one* of these topics. The format of the final paper is essentially the same, except that students are given the option to write on a topic of their own choosing. The take-home tests and final paper topics will be made available on D2L one week before they are due. If you wish to write on a final paper topic of your own choosing, I ask that you submit a proposal to me at least two weeks before the paper is due (by Dec. 3rd at the latest).

4. Academic Integrity

You are welcome and encouraged to discuss course material with others in your class, and work together to solve problems. However, the work you turn in must be your own. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please consult the college's Academic Integrity Policy (available at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>).

5. Late Submissions and Extensions

Late work is penalized at 10% per day up to a maximum of 5 days, after which point it will no longer be accepted. However, I know that things do not always go according to plan. You are welcome to two day's worth of extensions on assignments (tests or the final paper). This means that you can take two extra days to complete a assignment, or have one extra day on two different assignments. *Please let me know before the due date if you are using an extension. Otherwise, your work will be counted as a late submission.*

6. Communication and Office Hours

Email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don't hear back from me after that time frame, feel free to try again in case your message went astray. When you do address me (over email or otherwise), please do so as either Professor (Prof.) Gavin, or Anthony. If you are ever nervous about sending me an email, or asking a question, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether or not I will be able to help you with your request, but it does provide a nice icebreaker. Finally, my pronouns are he/him/his. If you think I am unlikely to know the name you would prefer to be called, or the pronouns that I should use for you through the entry that I will see for you on D2L and your college registration, please don't hesitate to make me aware.

I will be available for office hours on Wednesdays and Fridays between 11:00am and 12:30am. Due to COVID-19, I ask that you schedule an appointment with me before attending office hours. My default platform for office hours will be Zoom, but in-person appointments are also available. My office is located in the Young Building, Room 312. If neither of these options works for you, please feel free to suggest an alternative. Appointments can be scheduled in 15 minute blocks. If you are working with a study group and would like to attend office hours as a group, simply designate one person to reserve the appointment and let me know who else will be attending. Group appointments are online-only.

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.

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.