

COURSE SYLLABUS



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

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Fall 2022

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən 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://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

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.ca

OFFICE: Young 312

HOURS: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:30–4:00pm

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.

Additional readings will be made available on D2L.

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 marked with *asterisks* are optional.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 1: Sept. 6 – 9	UNIT 1: THE VALUE OF PHILOSOPHY <i>Topic: What Is Philosophy?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Review course syllabus Wednesday Readings: <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 Friday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, “Apology: Defense of Socrates,” pp. 33 – 48	<i>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.</i>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 2: Sept. 12 – 16	<p><i>Topic: Why Study Philosophy?</i></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 	
Week 3: Sept. 19 – 23	<p>UNIT 2: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY</p> <p><i>Topic: Rationalism and the Understanding</i></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 	
Week 4: Sept. 26 – 30	<p><i>Topic: Empiricism and Skepticism</i></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 5: Oct. 3 – 7	<p>UNIT 3: FREE WILL AND DETERMINISM</p> <p><i>Topic: Freedom, Determinism, and Responsibility</i></p> <p>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"> • Hampshire & Sugden, “Spinoza’s Theory of Human Freedom” (on D2L), pp. 554-566 • Spinoza, “Of the Power of the Understanding, or of Human Freedom,” Preface (on D2L), pp. 379 – 382 • *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* 	Friday: Take-home test #1 available on D2L

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p>Week 6: Oct. 10 – 14</p>	<p>UNIT 4: GOD AND EVIL <i>Topic: The Existence of God</i> Wednesday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anselm, “The Ontological Argument,” pp. 52 - 24 • Aquinas, “The Existence of God,” pp. 54 – 56 Friday Readings: <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>	<p>Friday: Take-home test #1 due</p>
<p>Week 7: Oct. 17 – 21</p>	<p><i>Topic: The Problem of Evil</i> Wednesday Readings: <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* Friday Readings: <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)* </p>	
<p>Week 8: Oct. 24 – 28</p>	<p>UNIT 5: ETHICS <i>Topic: Utilitarianism and Deontology</i> Wednesday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bentham, “The Principle of Utility,” pp. 481 – 484 • *Mill, “Utilitarianism,” pp. 485 – 501* Friday Readings: <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* </p>	
<p>Week 9: Oct. 31 – Nov. 4</p>	<p><i>Topic: Virtue Ethics</i> Wednesday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics,” pp. 544 – 559 Friday Readings: <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>	<p>Friday: Take-home test #2 available on D2L</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p>Week 10: Nov. 7 – 11</p>	<p>UNIT 6: EXISTENTIALISM <i>Topic: Life and Meaning</i> Wednesday Readings: <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* Friday: NO CLASS – Remembrance Day</p>	<p>Friday: Take-home test #2 due</p>
<p>Week 11: Nov. 14 – 18</p>	<p><i>Topic: Death and Finitude</i> Wednesday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sartre, “Existentialism Is a Humanism” (on D2L), pp. 17 – 54, cont’d • Heidegger, “The Necessity, Structure, and Priority of the Question of Being” (on D2L), pp. 21 – 35 Friday Readings: <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 • *Ismael, “The Ethical Importance of Death,” pp. 734 – 742* </p>	
<p>Week 12: Nov. 21 – 25</p>	<p><i>Topic: Existentialist Ethics</i> Wednesday Readings: <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* Friday Readings: <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* </p>	
<p>Week 13: Nov. 28 – Dec. 2</p>	<p>UNIT 7: CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY <i>Topic: Feminist Epistemology and Ethics</i> Wednesday Readings: <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 Friday Readings: <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* </p>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 14: Dec. 5 – 9	Week 14: What (Else) Is Philosophy? Wednesday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaufman, “Is Philosophy Anything If It Isn’t White?” (on D2L), pp. 1 – 15 Friday Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atleo (Umeek), “Introduction: Development of an Indigenous Theory” (on D2L), pp. xi – xx 	Wednesday: Final Essay topics available on D2L
Dec. 12 – 20	Final Exam Period	Final Essay due Wednesday, Dec. 14th

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
Two take-home tests (2x 30%)	60%
Final essay	30%
Participation	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

Although COVID-19 restrictions have been eased, this doesn’t that the virus has disappeared. What it *does* mean is that experts now consider the public health risk to be small enough to be manageable by individuals. Different people face different decisions when it comes to managing their individual risk portfolios. Thus, it should go without saying that I expect all students to be respectful of one another’s personal health choices.

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 you register, you'll have access to the course website on D2L. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the course website. This is where you'll find any readings not included in the course textbook, and submit your assignments.

Students are expected to attend both lectures and one seminar each week. Please double-check your registration to see which seminar you are assigned to. No excuse is necessary if you are unable to attend, but regular non-attendance will negatively impact your Participation grade (discussed further below). Please ensure that you are caught up on the required reading(s) before each seminar, as they are heavily discussion-oriented.

It is very important to attend the first class. Failure to do so will result in your being automatically dropped.

Waitlisted students are also welcome to attend the first class. If you are unable to attend the first class, please let me know as soon as possible.

3. 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/>).

4. 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. By default, each student is welcome to two day's worth of penalty-free extensions. This means that you can take two extra days to complete one assignment, or have one extra day on two different assignments. The only caveat is that you must let me know before the due date if you are using an extension. Otherwise, your work will be counted as a late submission.

5. 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, please feel free to try me again, in case your message went astray. When you 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, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether I'll be able to help with your request, but it does provide a nice icebreaker.

I will be available for office hours on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30-4:00pm. Priority will be given to students with scheduled appointments, but drop-ins are also welcome. My office is located in the Young Building, Room 312. I am also available for online appointments via Zoom (in which case, you'll need to schedule an appointment, so I can send you the Zoom invite). 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.

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.

6. Basis of Evaluation

- **Two take-home tests (2 x 30% = 60%)**

Each take-home test will feature a list of essay topics for you to choose from—you will choose and write on **just one** of these topics. Then, write a short **philosophical essay** on the topic of your choosing. Your essay should be between 1000-1500 words in length (please do not exceed a maximum of 2000 words). This amounts to about 4-6 pages, using a 12-pt Times New Roman font. Please upload your essays to D2L once completed.

Generally speaking, each topic will ask you to do two things: (1) **analyze** two (or more) primary texts (what is the author's main argument? do they introduce any key terms that need defining?); and (2) **compare/contrast** the arguments in these texts (what do they share in common? how do they differ?).

Each take-home test is due by the beginning of class **one week after** it is assigned.

- Take-home test #1 is due on **Friday, October 14th**.
- Take-home test #2 is due on **Friday, November 11th**.

Further instructions will accompany the assignment handout.

- **Final Essay (30%)**

The format of the final essay is essentially the same as the take-home tests. I will assign a selection of topics, and you will choose to write on **just one** of these topics. Your final essay should be between 1500-2000 words in length (please do not exceed a maximum of 2500 words). This amounts to 6-8 pages, using a 12-pt Times New Roman font. Please upload your essays to D2L once completed.

Generally speaking, in addition to (1) **analyzing** and (2) **comparing/contrasting**, the final essay topics will also ask you to (3) **evaluate** the arguments of two (or more) primary texts (which is logically stronger? which do you find more convincing, and why?).

- The Final Essay is due on **Wednesday, December 14th**, by 11:59pm.

Further instructions will accompany the assignment handout.

Note: you may also **write on a topic of your own choosing** for the final essay. However, if you choose to do so, I ask that you arrange to meet with me to discuss your proposed topic, by no later than two weeks before the essay is due (that is, by **November 30th**).

- **Participation (10%)**

Each week you'll have the opportunity to earn a participation point. Earning 10 of these points will get you full marks for participation.

The surest way to earn your participation point each week is to engage in in-class discussions. However, I recognize that there are multiple other ways to participate, and that some students may face barriers to in-class participation. Hence, email exchanges, office hours appointments, or even a quick chat after class can all count towards your participation grade. Since these things can be difficult to keep track of, participation grades are subject to a final adjustment before final grades are released.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

School of Arts & Science

Camosun College Lansdowne
School of Arts & Science | Fisher 104
3100 Foul Bay Rd
Victoria BC V8P 5J2

Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

General inquiries

Phone: 250-370-3298
Email: artsci@camosun.ca

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.