

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 207B: Death
Fall 2015 Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb

, 6 ±9 p.m.

Office: 1100 University Ave., Room 1100
Mondays

Course Objectives

This course seeks to achieve two goals. The first, and most important, is to introduce students to and/or build upon a set of standard philosophical skills. Using the readings, lectures, and essay assignments, this course will help students to identify what it is that makes the set of reasons that support the conclusions of an argument either convincing or implausible by requiring them to formulate well-reasoned responses.

The second goal of this course is to introduce students to the ways in which the aforementioned philosophical skills have been applied by classical and contemporary philosophers to one of the most intriguing elements of human life, i.e., Death. In particular, the arguments we consider will attempt to answer the following sorts of questions: What does it mean to say that a person is dead? What, if anything, survives beyond death? Is death to be feared? Is it Dignified? When, if ever, is it permissible to bring about death?

Required Texts

Brennan and Stainton ed., *Philosophy and Death: Introductory Readings* (Broadview Press: 2009)

Course Requirements

20% - Mid-Term Exam

50% - two 750 ±1000 word essays, worth 25% each*

30% - Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar during the 2015 final examination period, i.e., December 1st ±23rd, 2015)

* Late papers will be assessed with a 5% penalty on the first day, and will incur an additional 1% per day thereafter. (Additional information available in the course syllabus.)

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Phil, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>