

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

**Philosophy 3027: Berkeley**

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Berkeley, known as The Good Bishop, developed one of the most fascinating and controversial — philosophical doctrines of all-time, Idealism. According to idealism, only minds and ideas exist, bodies and material things are impossible objects, invented by hare-brained philosophers. What makes this doctrine so interesting and philosophically significant isn't the thesis itself, but Berkeley's defense of it.

- context(s);
6. Understanding and being able to describe and explain the most significant consequences Berkeley sees following from the doctrine of Idealism;
  7. Being able to defend your preferred interpretation of Berkeley's Idealism, the primary argument(s) for it, and/or the significant consequences that follow from it.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

**Mid-term Examinations (20 % total, 10% each)** There will be two mid-term examinations. The date of the first examination is Oct. 9. The date of the second is Oct. 28. The students' aims should be to display a mastery of the philosophical material presented in the readings and class discussion. The focus of the exam will be on the ideas, doctrines, and arguments presented in class and in the readings. Students will be expected to present the ideas, doctrines, or arguments, to highlight their philosophically salient features, explain in detail how they work or fit together, and identify any crucial unstated assumptions on which they rely. Students may also be asked to briefly assess an idea, doctrine, or argument and provide specific reasons in support of his or her assessment. Students may also be asked to compare and contrast ideas, doctrines, or arguments between or among various authors or texts.

**Final Examination (30 %)** There will be a cumulative, three hour final examination worth 30% of the student's grade. The exam will be administered at the date, time, and location to be dictated by the Registrar's Office. Like the mid-term examination, the final examination will be devoted to displaying a mastery of the philosophical material presented in the readings and class discussion. Students will be expected to describe and present the ideas, doctrines, or arguments, to highlight their philosophically salient features, explain in detail how they work or fit together, and identify any crucial unstated assumptions. Students may also be asked to assess an idea, doctrine, or argument and provide specific reasons in support of that assessment. Students should also expect to be able to compare and contrast ideas, doctrines, or arguments between or among various authors or texts.

**Term Paper (25 %)** All students are required to submit a 1600-2000 word term paper. The paper is due at midnight December 9. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the paper is uploaded or emailed *before* midnight according to the upload/email timestamp. Take steps to ensure that your paper is not refused or counted late because of a slight error in timing. Late papers are assessed a 5% deduction per day until Thursday December 10. No papers can be accepted after midnight on Thursday December 10 per departmental and Senate policy. As of midnight December 10, all students who have failed to submit a paper will be awarded a score of 0. Papers failing to fall within the required word count will not be accepted and will not be considered submissions; they will be awarded a s

thesis, construct a clear, coherent, and plausible argument in support of their thesis, and anticipate and respond to one or two potential objections to their thesis or argument. Papers will be graded on the following grounds: the historical and philosophical sig

Assignments may be announced and/or administered in-class or via OWL. Student will not be allowed to make-up quizzes or in-class assignments missed due to unexcused absences. In the case of excused absences, the instructor will determine a suitable replacement. Late submissions of a