

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19
Philosophy 1020
Introduction to Philosophy

Term: Autumn & Spring
Class Hours: T/Th, 2:30-3:30
Class Location: NS 145
Tutorials: One hour per week

Instructor: Anthony Skelton
Office Location: WIRB 7178
Office Hours: T, 3:30-4:30 & Th, 9:30-10:30
E-mail: askelto4@uwo.ca
Phone: 519-661-2111, 87953

Description

This course will be devoted to a selection of problems in the following areas of philosophy:

1. Epistemology or the theory of knowledge. We shall consider such questions as: Is knowledge possible? Are any of our beliefs justified?
2. Metaphysics or the theory of what exists. We shall consider such questions as: Does God exist? Do we possess freedom of the will?
3. Ethics or the study of the nature of right and wrong, good and bad. We shall consider such questions as: What makes an action right or wrong, permissible or impermissible? What makes something good or bad?
4. Practical Ethics or the study of how one ought to live. We shall consider such questions as: Is it permissible to eat non-human animals? Ought I to do something to combat poverty in developing nations? Is abortion permissible?

Texts

All readings found on-line through the OWL site for this course.

Objectives

This course has four main objectives.

1. To acquaint students with some important problems in philosophy, their articulation and their attempted resolution.
2. To provide students with a deeper appreciation of the ways in which philosophy matters to daily life.
3. To equip students with some of the skills required for conducting philosophical research.
4. To help students develop the ability to express philosophical concepts and arguments clearly and economically in writing and in speaking.

Requirements

1. Tutorial Participation

Point: Each student is required to sign up for and attend a weekly tutorial; it is an opportunity to reflect on and to discuss course material with peers.

Value: 10 percent of final grade (5 percent per term)

2. Essay 1

Due date: TBD

Length: No more than 800 words

Value: 10 percent of final grade

3. Essay 2

Due date: TBD

Length: No more than 800 words

Value: 10 percent of final grade

4. Mid-term Examination

Due Date: To be determined by the Office of the Registrar

Length: Two Hours

Value: 20 percent of final grade

5. Essay 3

Due date: TBD

Length: No more than 800 words

Examples of plagiarism include: misrepresenting co-authored or group work as individually done, cutting and pasting copied or paraphrased work by others in with your own work, paraphrasing or otherwise altering the order of words or phrases and/or substituting words or phrases of similar meaning without acknowledgement that you are doing so, aiding and abetting such offences, among others.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Scholastic offences are taken very seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic>

12. Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 (after class hours and on weekends and holidays).

The policy on Accommodation for Mental Illness is here:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

13. Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
Student Support Services: <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>
Services provided by USC: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>
Student Development Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>