

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2021-22
Philosophy 2073 (650)
Death

Winter 2022
Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb
Office:

DESCRIPTION

This course is focused on understanding and engaging the arguments that scholars have made about death. The specific arguments we consider attempt to answer the following questions: What does it mean to say that a person is dead? What, if anything, survives beyond death? Is death bad? Conversely, is immortality good? Are there any circumstances in which it is morally permissible to bring about the death of another and if so, why?

to introduce students to and/or build upon a set of standard philosophical skills. Using the readings, lectures, and 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 to the arguments made in the readings.

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. This goal is accomplished in the two course exams.

REQUIREMENTS

20% - Mid-Term Exam

50% - two 1200 ±1400 word essays, worth 25% each

30% - Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar during the April 2022 final examination period)

AUDIT

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

DUE DATES

1. Monday February 28th, 2022 at 11:55 p.m.
2. Monday March 25th, 2022 at 11:55 p.m.

- Exams ±
1. Friday February 11th from 9 a.m. ± Thursday Feb 17th at 11:55 p.m.
 2. April Exam Period, to be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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 Philosophy, and this ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the

the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this topic can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a grade Office of the

