

Philoso 2202G :
[Western] Early Modern Philosophy

Course Outline 202 2–23

Dr. Benjamin Hill

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Hill (he/him/his)	GTA : Dmitry Turko
Voicemail: 519.661.2111 (x80143)	Student Hours: TBA
Student Hours:	Contact: OWL Messages
x MW 09:30 -10:00 (at Einstein's)	
x T 13:00 -14:00 (3140 STVH)	
x By appointment	
Contact: OWL Messages	

[LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT](#)

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional



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Extra Credit Opportunities [Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 8]

Opportunities for extra credits may be made available throughout the term. Some may be for extra credit on the score of a particular assignment; some may be for extra credit on one's course grade. All opportunities will be announced on OWL with the expectations and potential credits specified.

- x ExCr Opportunity #1: "Critical Review" **Due Monday 10 Apr 2023**
[Learning out comes: 1, 2, 3, 8] Max +10 points on your final grade. Graded by Dr. Hill.

Details of the assignment and rubric are contained in [Appendix 4](#). Only projects that have received prior special permission from Dr. Hill will be graded. **Deadline for Receiving Permission, Thursday 02 March 2023**. The resources available for review are:

- Peter Adamson and Chike Jeffers, "Africana Philosophy," episodes 1 and 9–39, released 31 March 2018 through 10 November 2019, History of Philosophy without any Gaps, by Peter Adamson, podcast, 1:20 <https://historyofphilosophy.net/series/africana-philosophy>;
- Richard King, Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2008. (Available as an e-book [via Weldon](#).)
- Toby Huff, The Rise of Early Modern Science: Islam, China, and the West, 3rd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. (Available as an e-book [via Weldon](#).)

Essay Course Word Count

As a course that satisfies the senior level essay course requirement, student enrolled in this course should expect to submit a minimum of 2500 words of written work.

Department Target Average Policy

The Philosophy Department has a policy requiring a 74 average for each 2nd year course. The grades I assign will be in the OWL "Gradebook". Should there be any discrepancy between the grade I recorded for you in OWL and your "official" grade reported by the Registrar, you should contact the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Chair for clarification and explanation. Western's current policies and procedures for undergraduate student academic appeals can be found [here](#)

STUDENT A BSENCES

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.



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COURSE SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition to our official OWL site, we have a course website at <https://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/2202g/>



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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 [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus 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 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home 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 Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Western Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found [here](#).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Accessibility Accommodation

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic

[Accommodation disabilities.pdf](#)

t EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



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of your final grade:

- x Midterm Examination

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

FINAL COURSE SUBMISSION DATE

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, [here](#).

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the ~~power (c)2 (p)7 (t)7 (n)7 (e)14 (r)13. (e s.)Tj E-9 (ie/t)-8 (o)-10 (c)1 (t)--1 (t)-8~~



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Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender -based and sexual violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get_help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Digital Student Experience

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and wellbeing: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC,



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Appendix 3 (Interpretation Paper Guidelines)

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Interpretation is one of the critical skills historians of philosophy must master. (It is also valuable for practitioners of contemporary philosophy as well.) For historians of philosophy, it provides the object of philosophical scrutiny and assessment. So, for historians of philosophy, everything begins with an act of interpretation.

The following may be a convenient way for us to think about what an act of interpretation is: an act of interpretation =df the process of transforming a text into a philosophical object. We can identify four stages to this process.

1. Analyzing the Text
2. Mapping the Textual Analysis into a Logical Format
3. Philosophically Analyzing the Logical Format
4. Filling any Logical Gaps (or Explaining Why the Author Could Not Fill Them)

Analyzing the Text

The purpose of this is to identify what is to be interpreted and how the author presents his philosophical ideas. Typically, the texts we are interested in interpreting contain arguments, explanations, or philosophi /TT1 1 Tf -0.00 d(n)-2 (t)-8 (a)1 .mm-d(,)-1 (e)2 (l)-5 (o)4





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Writing a critical resource review is probably different than any other type of writing you have done before. It is helpful to start with an understanding of what a resource review is: An honest and in-depth assessment of the value of a resource by a knowledgeable authority to aid potential users/readers in deciding whether to spend their valuable time using the resource. A good review will convey the contents of the resource, but it will also do much more than that. (Hint: a crucial review is not a mere report!) A reviewer needs to have a thorough understanding of the resource and a solid, authoritative command over the field/genre, topic(s), and theme(s) covered



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Appendix 4 (Critical Review Ex. Credit Project)

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- x Sketch a rough outline of how you wish to present these ideas and themes.
- x Work through the resource again (reread it, if it is a book) more carefully (and slowly, if necessary) with an eye toward (a) finalizing (and narrowing, if necessary) your list of important themes and ideas, (b) finalizing (and altering as necessary)



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Appendix 4 (Critical Review Ex. Credit Project)

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