

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy 2

Winter 2020, Term 1 (Sect. 001)

Meets: M 14:00--15:00 and W 14:00--15:00 and F 14:00--15:00 (online delivery due to COVID-19)

Instructor:

Stefan Lukits
stlukits@mail.ubc.ca

TA:

TBD

TBD

It is helpful if every time you write an email to either the instructor or the TA the subject line of your email contains the phrase "PHIL 102". You can use my public pgp key chahtazi-public.asc (available on Canvas) to encrypt emails sent to me. If you do this, I will reply to you using your public encryption key.

Office Hours:

- Stefan: by appointment
- TBD: by appointment
- TBD: by appointment

Online Delivery

The instructor will provide asynchronous lecture material for each reading. Students will be assessed about these materials in the assessment quizzes. Furthermore, once a week there will be a synchronous tutorial session online, which you can either attend or for which you can submit an audio question asynchronously. Attendance at the tutorial OR submission of an audio question count towards your attendance grade. The tutorials are not meant for new lecture material, but for question and answer sessions with the instructor/TAs.

This course is designed to accommodate students who cannot attend online meetings. The tutorials, which are online meetings, do not require attendance as they will be recorded and audio questions can be submitted in lieu of attendance. All lecture materials will be provided so students can access them at their convenience. However, students must have the capability for one online meeting: the final exam interview with the instructor.

Acknowledgement

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Description

Basic problems and methods of philosophy. Topics such as morality, personal identity, free will and determinism, and the meaning of life. Credit will be granted for only one of PHIL 100 or PHIL 102.

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Outline a complex argument in an assigned text, stating premises and conclusion.
2. Assess the strength of arguments in assigned texts.
3. Complete an essay that discusses and evaluates arguments with a clear structure and well-supported arguments.
4. Discuss and defend one's own view of what philosophy is and what its value might be.

Course Website

We have a site on the UBC course website system called "Canvas." We will use the Canvas site for several purposes, but grades will be in an instructor spreadsheet, not on the UBC Canvas site. I will provide access to the instructor spreadsheet using a special set of login credentials. To access the Canvas site, go to this site and log in with your Campus Wide Login and password: <http://canvas.ubc.ca>

Evaluation/Assignments

25% Reading Assessments

There is a fair bit of reading to do for this course. There will be online quiz style assessments to ensure that students read these texts carefully and listened to or viewed the asynchronous lecture material. These assessments will be conducted on Canvas and an academic platform called acadly (the registration code of this course for acadly is TBD; however, do not sign up on acadly before you have received more detailed instructions provided separately). Attendance is part of these reading assessments. Synchronous attendance is not mandatory, as audio questions can be submitted instead of tutorial attendance (see below).

50% Essays

The first essay assignment (Essay #1) is an assignment that you submit on Canvas before Monday, September 21, 2020, at 3pm. It is freestyle, which means that you have a fair amount of artistic licence.

The idea is to write a literary (as opposed to an academic) non-fiction text based on the idea that your life and the narrative associated with it provide a stimulus for asking some of the questions of philosophy: who am I? what should I do? what do I owe others? what is real? how do I fit in? what is love? what happens after I die? what method should I use to answer the big questions? Note that I do not want you to answer these questions in a detached and academic manner (you will do some of this in Essay #2), and you definitely don't have to cover all of them. I want Essay #1 to be personal and non-academic, perhaps like a journal entry or a letter written to a close friend. You are also encouraged to drill down immediately into something that is pointedly particular about you—do not waste time with generalities. The more detailed and specific this paper is about you, the better, and you get to choose YOUR preferred way of expressing yourself about what matters to you.

Don't worry about your grade or a grading rubric for Essay #1. If you put recognizable effort into this project, you will receive 85%–100%. There is no length requirement. However, the submission must be two pages in pdf format. Do not put your name or student number on Essay #1. There will be an attempt to anonymize your submission (only six digit codes on printed page); details will be provided separately. (25%)

The second essay assignment (Essay #2) is an assignment that you submit on Canvas before Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 1pm. Essay #2 is very different from Essay #1. It is an academic paper in which you address a philosophical question based on the readings. Your audience is an intelligent undergraduate student who has attended our course and done our readings. The essay will be marked on content (clarity of presentation, strength of argument, relevance of thesis) and form (spelling, grammar, presentation in print). This paper will be six pages in length, where "six pages" means that the length of the paper must be at least six pages and at most seven pages. Use 1.5 line spacing and a font between 11pt and 12pt. Submit in pdf format. (25%)

25% Final Exam

The final exam will be held during the exam period for Term 1, which is December 7–22, 2020. It includes a one-on-one interview with the instructor and an online short answer/multiple choice section which tests your knowledge and comprehension of the readings. To prepare for it, do all the readings required for the class and take some notes that you can review before the final exam. No extensive studying before the exam should be necessary. If you have attended class, read the material, and remind yourself of the main ideas of the readings and their authors, you should comfortably pass this requirement.

Course Policies

Class Etiquette and Rules

I don't encourage the use of computers during class time, although you may do so if you are taking notes. Use the computer as you would on an airplane, i.e. off-line. Often it's best to raise your hand if you want to speak, but I'm also happy to have free-form discussions in class where people don't raise their hands as long as everyone is respectful of others (avoid cutting others off, interrupting them when they're in the middle of saying something).

The last paragraph serves as a reminder that this course was originally designed to be delivered in person. Due to the current pandemic, however, this course will be held online.

Basic rules of respectful dialogue will be enforced. Disrespectful speech such as name-calling, stereotyping, and derogatory remarks about ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and sexual/gender identity should be avoided and may constitute harassing speech.

Harassing speech will not be tolerated. The UBC Equity office defines harassment as follows:

"Harassment, a form of discrimination, is a comment, conduct or behaviour that humiliates, intimidates, excludes and isolates an individual or group based on the BC Human Rights Code's thirteen grounds of prohibited discrimination." The thirteen grounds of prohibited discrimination are: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical and mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex (including gender and pregnancy), sexual orientation, unrelated criminal conviction. Examples of

harassment include "repeated derogatory comments or jokes based on one of the prohibited grounds," and "discussing the culture of other classmates, co-workers, or colleagues in a disrespectful or ridiculing manner."

General information on assignments: Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. A final examination becomes the property of the University and must remain in the possession of the University for one year from the date of the examination, after which it should be destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with UBC policy.

Policies on Late or Missed Assessments

All essays are due on the day noted on this syllabus and on the assignment instructions. Late essays are subject to a 5% per weekday reduction in points (starting after the beginning of class time on the due date). The first late day carries an extra penalty of 5%. Arts Students must contact Arts Advising as soon as you are aware you may need an in-term concession. Please review their website for concession criteria as well as process to follow. Students in other Faculties should contact their Faculty advising office for direction. As instructors are no longer able to assess documentation other than the Student Self-Declaration Form, I will not be handling any in-term or final exam concessions. Go [here](#) instead.

Grading Standards

The following provide general guidelines that apply to all courses in the Faculty of Arts, including this one.

The following guidelines offer a broad-brush characterization of the type of work that might be associated with various ranges of grades. The intent here is to encourage general consistency across the Faculty of Arts rather than to provide precise specifications.

- 80% to 100% (A- to A+) Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
- 68% to 79% (B- to B+) Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
- 50% to 67% (D to C+) Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
- 0% to 49% (F) Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Marks in this course may be scaled (see Calendar, under Grading Practices).

University Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors

of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the [UBC Senate](#) website.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

TBA

Readings

TBA

Copyright

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