

Syllabus for PHIL 101, Winter 2020, Term 1
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal

1. Course Description

The course offers an overview of Western Philosophy from Ancient Greece to the present. After a brief overview of Greco-Roman and Medieval Philosophy, we take a closer look at the ground-breaking writings of Descartes and Hume, which did much to pave the way for modern philosophy. We study how the questions they raised, and the arguments they offered to back up their proposed answers to these questions, have been responded to by generations of philosophers down to the present day. Among questions discussed are: “What can we know?” “What ought we do?” and “What can we hope?” (and a plethora of more detailed questions that can be grouped under these three general questions).

2. Lectures

Mon/Wed/Fri: 09:00-9:50 on Collaborate Ultra (accessible via Canvas)
Recorded lectures will be available on Canvas or YouTube.

3. Instructor

Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca)

4. Instructor Office Hours

There will be no in person office hours this term due to Covid-19 social distancing rules.

5. Instructor Email Policy

Instructor will reply to emails weekdays. *Email correspondence is intended chiefly for clarification of specific course content and presupposes attendance at the lectures that dealt with this content.*

6. Teaching Assistant

TBA

The TA will be marking exams and papers, will hold so-called Review Sessions for you to view marked work, and will answer questions about marked work via email.

7. Required Texts

Descartes, R. *Discourse on Method and Meditations*, trans. E. Haldane (Mineola: Dover, 2003). (Or any other edition.)

Hume, D. *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding* (Mineola: Dover, 2004). (Or any other edition.)

*The above books will be available in the UBC bookstore at very affordable prices, and are also accessible online at many open source sites.

8. Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage Worth
In-Class Exam (x2)	20% (x2)
Take-Home Essay	20%
Final Exam	40%

For dates, see the Schedule at the end of this document.

In the in-class exams, you will be asked to provide answers to questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. If you miss the in-class exam you will automatically be assigned 0 points unless you provide the TA with an UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for doing a make-up exam (this is to be provided within 1 week of the day of the exam).

In the take-home paper, you will be asked to write a 3-4 page text in response to one or more questions about material covered in class. The prompt for this paper will be posted on Canvas 1 week before the due date, and is to be submitted on Canvas. A missed assignment will automatically receive 0 points. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless you provide the TA with a UBC Academic Calendar approved rationale for an extended deadline (this is to be provided within 1 week of the day of the fixed deadline).

The final exam will be held during UBC's final examinations period. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

9. Lecture Recordings

Lectures covering examinable content will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas or YouTube. You do not need to attend the lectures live but can watch the recordings afterwards.

10. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be expected to:

- i. Be familiar with the general trajectory of Western Philosophy from Ancient Greece up to the present day
- ii. Understand and be able to explain in more detail some specific ideas, arguments, and projects in Descartes' *Meditations* and Hume's *Enquiry*
- iii. Understand and be able to explain how these ideas, arguments and projects impacted subsequent philosophy up to the present day
- iv. Be familiar with general methodological approaches and styles of reasoning characteristic of Western Philosophy

11. Marking Parameters

Your mark in this course will be a function of three main factors: 1) your performance on the examinable momenta *relative to your peers*, 2) your comprehension of the course material, 3) demonstration of skill in assessing and evaluating philosophical ideas.

12. Marking Scale

A+ 90-100%	B+ 76-79%	C+ 64-67%	D 50-54%
A 85-89%	B 72-75%	C 60-63%	F 0-49%
A- 80-84%	B- 68-71%	C- 55-59%	

The degree of difficulty on the examinable momenta will be set so as to *aim* at a class average outcome that by and large conforms to the department average for this course down the years, which is in the range 68%-75%, i.e., in the B/B- range. Upwards scaling may be used to this effect.

13. Policy on Review of Marked Work

Marks on exams and papers will be posted on canvas. Feedback on expected outcomes of exams and papers will be provided (typically by the Instructor) in so-called Feedback Sessions. Any concerns about the marking of a paper or exam should be submitted to the marker (typically the TA) *via email*, and will be responded to (typically by the TA) *via email*.

14. Plagiarism (from the UBC Academic Calendar)

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

15. UBC Values and Policies (from the UBC Academic Calendar)

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 and cultural 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 here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>).

16. The Nature of this Syllabus

This syllabus sets out the policies according to which this course will proceed. Enrollment in the course involves an acceptance of these policies.

17. Schedule

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	September 9 (W)	Introductory Remarks on Philosophy
Western Philosophy, Part 1: Philosophy in Greco-Roman Antiquity		
	September 11 (F)	Thales: Beginnings of Natural Philosophy
<i>Week 2</i>	September 14 (M)	Socrates: Beginnings of Moral Philosophy
	September 16 (W)	Plato: The Theory of Everything
	September 18 (F)	Aristotle: The Theory of Everything
<i>Week 3</i>	September 21 (M)	The Stoics: God, Virtue, and Self-Control
	September 23 (W)	The Epicureans: Nature, Pleasure, and Peace of Mind
	September 25 (F)	The Sceptics: Suspension of Judgement
Western Philosophy, Part 2: Philosophy in Christian Europe		
<i>Week 4</i>	September 28 (M)	Augustine: Towards a Christian Philosophy
	September 30 (W)	Anselm: The Ontological Argument
	October 2 (F)	Aquinas: The Five Ways
<i>Week 5</i>	October 5 (M)	Ockham: The Principle of Simplicity
	October 7 (W)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 9 (F)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	October 12 (M)	THANKSGIVING DAY- NO CLASS
	October 14 (W)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 16 (F)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Week 7</i>	October 19 (M)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 21 (W)	<i>IN-CLASS EXAM #1</i>
	October 23 (F)	British Empiricism: Hobbes, Locke, Newton, and Berkeley
<i>Week 8</i>	October 26 (M)	German Rationalism: Leibniz, Wolff, and Kant

Western Philosophy, Part 3: Philosophy in the Liberal West		
	October 28 (W)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	October 30 (F)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i> <i>ESSAY PROMPT AVAILABLE (CANVAS)</i>
Week 9	November 2 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 4 (W)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 6 (F)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i> <i>TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE MIDNIGHT</i>
Week 10	November 9 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 11 (W)	REMEMBRANCE DAY - NO CLASS
	November 13 (F)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
Week 11	November 16 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 18 (W)	<i>IN-CLASS EXAM #2</i>
	November 20 (F)	Burke, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche: Four Political Visions
Week 12	November 23 (M)	Bertrand Russell: Logic, Mathematics, and Ethics
	November 25 (W)	Ludwig Wittgenstein: Logic, Mathematics, and Ethics
	November 27 (F)	Quine and Kripke: What There Is
Week 13	November 30 (M)	French Postmodernism: Lyotard, Foucault, and Derrida
	December 2 (W)	Concluding Remarks