

*Syllabus for PHIL 101, Winter 2021, Term 1*  
**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

*Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal*

***1. Course Description***

The course offers an overview of Western Philosophy from its beginning up 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 ideas and arguments they offered, 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

***3. Instructor***

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

***4. Instructor Office Hours***

TBA

***5. Instructor Email Policy***

Instructor will read and reply to emails weekdays between 15:00-16:00

***6. Teaching Assistants***

TBA

The TAs 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. They are also accessible online for free.

### **8. Course Requirements**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage Worth</b>
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 or transferring the weight to the final 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. Missed Lecture Policy**

Please note that if you miss a lecture you won't be able to recover the content of the lecture by emailing the Instructor or the TA asking for a summary of the lecture via email or going to them during office hours for this purpose. If you anticipate missing lectures, you are strongly encouraged to find a classmate early in the course who is willing to share notes with you.

### **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 its beginning 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

<b>A+</b> 90-100%	<b>B+</b> 76-79%	<b>C+</b> 64-67%	<b>D</b> 50-54%
<b>A</b> 85-89%	<b>B</b> 72-75%	<b>C</b> 60-63%	<b>F</b> 0-49%
<b>A-</b> 80-84%	<b>B-</b> 68-71%	<b>C-</b> 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. Marked exams and papers will be retained by the Department. Opportunity to view marked exams and papers will be provided by the marker (typically the TA) in so-called Review Sessions (note that these sessions are not intended for feedback, but only for the viewing of marked work). 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. Schedule***

Refer to the end of this document.

### ***17. 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.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	September 8 (W)	Introductory Remarks on Philosophy
<b>Western Philosophy, Part 1: Philosophy in Greco-Roman Antiquity</b>		
	September 10 (F)	Thales: Beginnings of Natural Philosophy
<i>Week 2</i>	September 13 (M)	Socrates: Beginnings of Moral Philosophy
	September 15 (W)	Plato: The Theory of Everything
	September 17 (F)	Aristotle: The Theory of Everything
<i>Week 3</i>	September 20 (M)	The Stoics: God, Virtue, and Self-Control
	September 22 (W)	The Epicureans: Nature, Pleasure, and Peace of Mind
	September 24 (F)	The Sceptics: Suspension of Judgement
<b>Western Philosophy, Part 2: Philosophy in Christian Europe</b>		
<i>Week 4</i>	September 27 (M)	Augustine: Towards a Christian Philosophy
	September 29 (W)	Anselm: The Ontological Argument
	October 1 (F)	Aquinas: The Five Ways
<i>Week 5</i>	October 4 (M)	Ockham: The Principle of Simplicity
	October 6 (W)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 8 (F)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	October 11 (M)	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY- NO CLASS</b>
	October 13 (W)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 15 (F)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
<i>Week 7</i>	October 18 (M)	Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>
	October 20 (W)	<b><i>IN-CLASS EXAM #1</i></b>
	October 22 (F)	British Empiricism: Hobbes, Locke, Newton, and Berkeley
<i>Week 8</i>	October 25 (M)	German Rationalism: Leibniz, Wolff, and Kant
<b>Western Philosophy, Part 3: Philosophy in the Liberal West</b>		
	October 27 (W)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	October 29 (F)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i> <b><i>ESSAY PROMPT AVAILABLE (CANVAS)</i></b>

<i>Week 9</i>	November 1 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 3 (W)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 5 (F)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i> <b><i>TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE MIDNIGHT</i></b>
<i>Week 10</i>	November 8 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 10 (W)	<b>NO CLASS</b>
	November 12 (F)	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<i>Week 11</i>	November 15 (M)	Hume's <i>Enquiry</i>
	November 17 (W)	<b><i>IN-CLASS EXAM #2</i></b>
	November 19 (F)	Burke, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche: Four Political Visions
<i>Week 12</i>	November 22 (M)	Burke, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche: Four Political Visions
	November 24 (W)	Bertrand Russell: Logic, Mathematics, and Ethics
	November 26 (F)	Ludwig Wittgenstein: Logic, Mathematics, and Ethics
<i>Week 13</i>	November 29 (M)	Quine and Kripke: What There Is
	December 1 (W)	French Postmodernism: Lyotard, Foucault, and Derrida
	December 3 (F)	French Postmodernism: Lyotard, Foucault, and Derrida
<i>Week 14</i>	December 6 (M)	Concluding Remarks