

PHIL 102-003: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Winter 2025/2026 - Term 2

1. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- **Instructor:** Jade Hadley
- **Email:** jade.hadley@ubc.ca
- **Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays after class (11:00-12:00pm) – BUCH E 274.

1.1. Teaching Team

- **Teaching Assistant:** Alex Springgay-Daubeny
- **Email:** asprdaub@student.ubc.ca

2. COURSE INFORMATION

- **Course Meetings:** Monday-Wednesday-Friday – 10:00-10:50am – Chemistry Building (CHEM): D200

2.1. Description

- This course introduces students to central philosophical questions in ethics and social philosophy. We will engage with a range of philosophical texts, spanning from the beginnings of Western philosophy to more contemporary debates. The course begins with an examination of three historically influential moral theories, which will provide a framework for addressing more specific ethical questions. These include: Is life good? What makes a life go well? What do we owe to others, including non-human animals? And do we have a duty to obey the law? Along the way, students will develop skills in philosophical reading, critical thinking, and argumentative writing.

2.2. Materials

- You are not required to purchase a textbook, or any other course materials, for this course.
 - All course readings will be made available on the Canvas page (under Modules—Readings), either as PDFs or as links to readings you can access with your CWL.

2.3. Email Policy

- This course has a high enrolment which means that a lot of emails are received. To ensure that emails are dealt with efficiently, please observe the following guidelines:
 - Put 'PHIL 102' somewhere in the email heading.
 - Include your student ID number in the email so that I can quickly look up your file if necessary.
 - Be patient. There are a lot of students in this course, and I am the only person monitoring emails.
 - At busy times, it may take me several days to get back to you (though I will aim to respond within two business days).
- For non-private matters, feel free to ask questions over the Discord channel.

2.4. Discord

- I have created a Discord server for this course. This is a place you can ask questions about course content, discuss the course material and other related material, as well as non-course related content with your classmates.
 - Here is the link to join: <https://discord.gg/2dbPWtqNfD>

2.5. Office Hours

- I will hold two office hour sessions per week, to be held in BUCH E 274 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00-12:00pm.
 - There is no need to make an appointment or let me know in advance that you will be attending office hours - you can just drop by!

3. CLASS SCHEDULE

- The following schedule is subject to revision. Students will be made aware of any changes.

Date	Readings	Assignments
<i>Introduction</i>		
Monday 5 th January	https://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html	
Wednesday 7 th January	https://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html Section 2 (section 3 optional)	
Friday 9 th January	Discussion	
<i>Moral Theories</i>		
Monday 12 th January	J. S. Mill, selections from <i>Utilitarianism</i>	
Wednesday 14 th January	J. J. C. Smart, <i>Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism</i> Williams, selections from <i>A Critique of Utilitarianism</i> <u>Optional</u> : Le Guin, <i>The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas</i>	
Friday 16 th January	Discussion	
Monday 19 th January	Kant, selections from <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i>	
Wednesday 21 st January	Kant, <i>On a Supposed Right to Tell Lies from Benevolent Motives</i>	
Friday 23 rd January	Discussion	
Monday 26 th January	Aristotle, selections from <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	
Wednesday 28 th January	Hursthouse, <i>Normative Virtue Ethics</i>	
Friday 30 th January	Discussion	
<i>Life and Death</i>		
Monday 2 nd February	Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> ; <i>Principal Doctrines</i>	
Wednesday 4 th February	Nagel, <i>Death</i> <u>Optional</u> : Feldman, <i>Some Puzzles About the Evil of Death</i>	

Friday 6 th February	Benatar, <i>Why It Is Better Never to Come into Existence</i>	
<i>What's Important in Life?</i>		
Monday 9 th February	Nozick, <i>The Experience Machine</i> Vitrano, <i>The Value of Unhappiness</i>	
Wednesday 11 th February	Wolf, <i>Happiness and Meaning: Two Aspects of The Good Life</i>	
Friday 13 th February	Discussion	
Monday 16 th February	No class: Family Day/ Midterm Break	
Wednesday 18 th February		
Friday 20 th February		
<i>How Should We Treat Others?</i>		
Monday 23 rd February	Midterm during class	
Wednesday 25 th February	Singer, <i>Famine, Affluence, and Morality</i> <u>Optional:</u> Timmerman, <i>Sometimes There Is Nothing Wrong with Letting a Child Drown</i>	
Friday 27 th February	O'Neill, <i>Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems</i>	
Monday 2 nd March	Thomson, <i>The Trolley Problem</i> Also, check out: https://www.moralmachine.net/	
Wednesday 4 th March	Nagel, <i>Moral Luck</i>	
Friday 6 th March	Discussion	
Monday 9 th March	Essay writing workshop	
<i>How Should We Treat Non-Human Animals?</i>		
Wednesday 11 th March	Norcross, <i>Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases</i> <u>Optional:</u> https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2017/nov/01/animal-rights-activists-inuit-clash-canada-indigenous-food-traditions	
Friday 13 th March	Discussion	Essay draft due

Monday 16 th March	Cohen, <i>A Critique of the Alleged Moral Basis of Vegetarianism</i>	
Wednesday 18 th March	Harman, <i>The Moral Significance of Animal Pain and Animal Death</i> <u>Optional</u> : Belshaw, <i>Death, Pain and Animal Life</i>	
Friday 20 th March	Discussion	
<i>Do We Have a Duty to Follow the Law?</i>		
Monday 23 rd March	Plato, selections from <i>Apology</i>	
Wednesday 25 th March	Plato, <i>Crito</i> M. L. King Jr., <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i>	
Friday 27 th March	Discussion	
<i>Student Choice</i>		
Monday 30 th March	TBD	
Wednesday 1 st April	No class: CAPCON	
Friday 3 rd April	Discussion	Essay due
Monday 6 th April	TBD	
Wednesday 8 th April	TBD	
Friday 10 th April	Final Review	

4. ASSESSMENT

- Attendance and participation: **15%**
 - In-class group exercises: 5 x 3% each
- Essay project: **30%**
 - Draft: 5%
 - Essay: 25%
- Midterm exam: **20%**
- Final exam: **35%**

4.1. Attendance and Participation

- It is very important to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions.
- On most (almost all) Fridays, we will have a class discussion about the material we have been covering.
 - During these classes, you will be split into groups (of around 5-6 members, depending on enrollment). The group you are put into will remain the same throughout the whole semester.
 - You are expected to participate both *within* your group and *as* a group to feedback to the class as a whole.
- During five randomly selected Friday class meetings, students will complete an in-class group exercise.
 - Each exercise is worth 3% of the final course grade. Grades are based on submission only, not correctness; however, submissions must reflect a genuine attempt to engage with the exercise. Submissions that are incomplete or superficial may not receive credit.
 - Missed exercises cannot be made up, except in cases of excused absences communicated in **advance**, when possible (see §5.1. of this syllabus).

4.2. Essay Project

- You will be required to write one philosophical essay during this course. Whilst this essay will require you to do some exegetical work (i.e., summarize a philosopher's views), it will not be purely descriptive – you will also be required to provide your own arguments in response.
 - More details will be provided later (we will devote a whole class to discussing this assignment).
- In preparation for the essay, you will be required to provide an essay draft, for which you will receive feedback from your TA.
 - Again, expectations for the draft will be discussed during class, closer to the date.

4.3. Midterm Exam

- The midterm exam will take place in-person during class time and will last 50 minutes.
 - The midterm is scheduled to take place the first class back after the midterm break: **Monday 23rd February**.
- The midterm exam will be cumulative – it could include any material which has been covered in class up until the point at which the exam is scheduled to take place.

4.4. Final Exam

- The final exam will be cumulative (covering *all* course material).
- The final exam will be scheduled during the formal examination period.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1. Late Assignments

- I am happy to consider reasonable requests for extensions or other concessions provided that the request is approved **before** the assignment is due (unless there are exceptional circumstances that prevent you from requesting a concession before the deadline).
- If you require a concession for a midterm exam, please let me know ASAP. Unless there is a very strong reason why you can't, this should be done **before** the day of the missed exam.
 - The concession for a missed midterm will either be a makeup midterm or a reweighting to the final exam.

5.2 Illness and Absence

- It is important that you do not attend class in-person if you are ill or have reason to believe that you may be ill.
 - I recommend that you attempt to find at least one, ideally several, fellow students who you can communicate with in case of missed classes, so that you can receive

notes and other relevant information from them (Discord is a good place to ask too).

5.3. Intellectual Property

- Instructor-generated course materials – including this syllabus, assignments, slides, etc. – are my own intellectual property and may not be copied or distributed without my explicit permission.

6. UBC POLICIES

6.1. Academic Misconduct

- 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.
- A link about Academic Misconduct: <https://vancouver.calendar.ubc.ca/campus-wide-policies-and-regulations/student-conduct-and-discipline/discipline-academic-misconduct>