

Syllabus for PHIL 101

Summer term 1, 2026

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Instructor: Dr Anders Kraal

Last updated: March 24, 2026

1. Course Description

The course will offer an overview of the highlights of Western Philosophy from Socrates and Plato and leading up to the major figures in 20th Century Philosophy (both the Anglo-American and the German-French traditions). The course provides a strong foundation for continued studies in Western Philosophy.

2. Lectures. *Tues and Thurs* 10:00am-1:00pm in Buch A 103.

3. Lecture style: Lectures are centred on the texts of the course; detailed information about weekly texts are posted every Saturday in advance. No slides, recordings, or preprinted handouts. Students are responsible for taking their own notes.

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

5. Instructor Office Hours. TBA

6. Instructor Email Policy. Instructor will read and reply to emails weekdays

7. Teaching Assistant. TBA. (The TA will be marking exams and papers, and will answer questions about marked work via email.)

8. Required Texts. All readings will be posted as PDF's on the course webpage Canvas. No need to buy any books.

9. Course and Exam Requirements

In-Class Exam (x3) (25% each).

9.1 In each in-class exams, you will be asked to provide answers to (usually four) questions dealing with matters brought up in class prior to the date of the exam. Unless otherwise announced, in-class exam 2 will not deal with the subject-matter of in-class exam 1, and in-class exam 3 will not deal with the subject-matter of in-class exams 1 or 2.

9.2 The in-class exams are written online via Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser (UBC's usual system for online exams). You must come to the classroom with your computer to

write the exam. Any student who takes the exam without being physically present in the classroom will be deemed to have committed academic misconduct.

9.3 Exams are closed book. You must put all notes, cellphones, and books away *before* you enter the classroom to write the exam. You must have your UBC student ID card with you and displayed during the exams.

9.4 Note: If a student suspects that their computer will glitch during the online exam, they should bring sheets of paper to the exam that they can write their answers on by hand. However they are also asked to show each sheet of paper to the instructor before they start to write, and should also sit in the front row of the class so that the instructor can easily invigilate their exam at all times. Students who hand in paper exams may not receive these paper exams back, nor do are they promised they will receive written feedback on their exams (this will be up to the discretion of the TA).

9.5 If a student misses an in-class exam, for whatever reason, the weight of that exam will be transferred to their final exam. However, if a student misses two in-class exams, they will not be able to score more than 80% in the course; and if a student misses all three in-class exams, they will not be able to score more than 75% in the course. Moreover, a student that misses an in-class exam is not entitled to request the exam questions after the exam.

9.6 TA's are entitled to judge from case to case if and how much written feedback to give on an in-class exam beyond the mark itself; students asking TA's for additional feedback should be aware that each TA has limited time allotted for each exam and may not be able to provide as much feedback as they ask for.

Final Exam (25%).

9.7 The final exam is cumulative (unlike the midterms), and will be held during UBC's final examinations period. The time and date of the final exam is fixed by the UBC admin, not the instructor.

9.8 A missed final exam will be assigned 0p unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar, in which case there will be a standing deferred final exam typically several months after the term ends.

9.9 Finals are not handed back to students, as per UBC policy. Final exam scores are not posted or handed back to students, rather it is added directly to the scores earned from the midterms and uploaded directly to UBC Workday's grade database. The student will see the final grade as soon as UBC Workday provides them with this information.

9.10 The midterms and the final exam are written online via Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser (UBC's usual system for online exams).

9.11 Final exams are closed book. You must put all notes, cellphones, and books away *before* you enter the classroom to write the exam. You must have your UBC student ID card with you and displayed during the exam.

9.12 Note: If a student suspects that their computer will glitch during the online final exam, they should bring sheets of paper to the exam that they can write their answers on by hand. However they are also asked to show each sheet of paper to the instructor before they start to write, and should also sit in the front row of the class so that the instructor can easily invigilate their exam at all times. Students who hand in paper exams will not receive these paper exams back, nor will they receive written feedback on their exams.

9.13 There will be no makeup exams for students who performs poorly on exams.

10. Learning Outcomes

10.1 At the end of the course the student will be expected to be familiar with the themes covered in the lectures; and ii) be able reflect critically and constructively on these themes.

10.2 Throughout the course the student will be provided with many occasions to refine their ability and skill in being attentive, processing verbal information, and taking good lecture notes.

10.3 The course has been designed to encourage consistent understanding and real ability (of the kind outlined above), not rote memorization, last-minute cramming, and the like. Lecture notes are accordingly not posted, and lecture recordings are not permitted (also for student privacy reasons) other than if students provide the instructor with a note of special academic accommodation in accordance with the UBC Academic Calendar.

11. Missed Lectures

Students who miss classes are encouraged to ask classmates for notes. If that fails, they may ask the instructor to post an announcement on canvas with their request for notes along with their email; it will be up to the classmates whether they will receive any reply.

12. Marking Parameters

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

13. Marking Scale

A+ 90-100% / **A** 85-89% / **A-** 80-84% / **B+** 76-79% / **B** 72-75% / **B-** 68-71%

C+ 64-67% / **C** 60-63% / **C-** 55-59% / **D** 50-54% / **F** 0-49%

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. Scaling may be used to this effect.

14. Policy on Review of Marked Work

Marks on exams will be posted on canvas. General feedback on expected outcomes of exams falls to the marker. Any concerns about the marking of an exam should be submitted to the marker via email, and will be responded to via email. Answer keys are not posted/mailed as part of the feedback.

15. Plagiarism (quoting 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>

16. UBC Values and Policies (quoting 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>).

17. Schedule

May 12 Socrates: the Man and the Legend

May 14 Plato and the Principle of the Good

May 21 Aristotle and the Order of Knowledge

May 26 ***Exam1 at 1:00-1:50pm.*** Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas: the Medieval Synthesis

May 28 Descartes: New Beginnings

June 2 Hume and the End of Traditional Philosophy

June 4 ***Exam2 at 1:00-1:50pm.*** Kant and the End of Traditional Philosophy

June 9 Philosophizing over the Ditch: Schelling, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche

June 11 ***Exam3 at 1:00-1:50pm*** Bertrand Russell and Analytic Philosophy

June 16 High Points of Analytic Philosophy: Wittgenstein, Carnap, Quine, Kripke

June 18 The Continental Alternative: Sartre, Heidegger, Camus, and Foucault

June 22-26: Final exam period