

Philosophy 1300E - Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 1000E - Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking

<p>Course Information: Mon./Wed./Fri., 11.30am - 12.30pm BR - 19 (Mother St James Building)</p> <p><i>Prerequisites: None.</i> <i>Antirequisites: PHILOSOP 1020, 1022E, 1100E, 1250F/G, 1350F/G. Note also that 1000E and 1300E are antirequisites of one another.</i></p>	<p>Instructor Information: Ms Sarah Hogarth Rossiter shogart@uwo.ca Brescia - Mother St James room 40 Main Campus - Stevenson Hall room 4136</p> <p>Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 10.30 - 11.30am in the Beryl Ivey Library, or by appointment.</p>
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Have you ever wondered what is really at the heart of leading a good life? Have you wondered whether everything that exists is pure matter, or whether there's something more, something non-material? Whether there's such a thing as God, or the soul, or an afterlife -- and if so, what sorts of things they might be? Have you wondered what, if anything, makes human beings essentially different from other animals -- or women essentially different from men? Have you wondered how we can know that what we perceive around us is real, and not just an illusion, or a dream? These questions and others like them are the questions of philosophy: it is in asking, examining, and attempting to answer such questions that philosophy consists. They are fundamental questions, transcending time and culture, but they are questions to which all the disciplines of science, mathematics, and psychology can offer only partial, incomplete answers -- if they offer any answer at all.

But since none of these questions afford us easy, pat answers, there is naturally a great deal of disagreement about how they ought to be answered! For this reason, a large part of philosophical discussion involves sifting through the answers of others, and showing where some are flawed, or why one answer is stronger than another, or providing reasons why one answer should be accepted while others are rejected. This active engagement with the answers of other philosophers -- past and present -- makes philosophy an ongoing dialogue, a "Great Conversation."

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the major themes and figures of the Western philosophical tradition, from the pre-Socratic philosophers of the 5th and 6th Centuries B.C. (B.C.E.) to the present day. The course will follow a historical, or chronological, approach, which will allow us to see how philosophical discussions developed and evolved over time. As we engage together with the thought and writings of these philosophers, we, too, will be part of the Great Conversation!

Course Materials:

Required text: *The Great Conversation: A historical introduction to philosophy*, 7th edition, by Norman Melchert (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). ISBN: 978-0-19-999965-1

Other readings (both required and supplementary) will be supplied online through the textbook website (www.oup.com/us/melchert), and through links posted to the OWL course page.

****N.B.**** Students enrolled in Philosophy 1000E will have additional readings to those in 1300E, supplied by the instructor.

Course Requirements:

In addition to regular completion of assigned readings and participation in classroom activities, students are expected to complete the following (dates may be subject to change, with ample notice):

22 September	Assignment 1 - argument summary
10 October	Assignment 2 - argument objections
10 November	Essay 1 (~3 pages, 750 - 900 words)
28 November	Assignment 3 - Descartes' <i>Meditations</i> and the Ontological Argument

MID-YEAR EXAM, scheduled by Registrar

19 January	Assignment 4 - TBD
9 February	Essay 2 (~3 pages, 750 - 900 words)
2 March	Assignment 5 - Essay proposal
30 March	Essay 3 (~6 pages, 1 500 - 1 800 words)

FINAL EXAM, scheduled by Registrar

Each assignment task will be explained at least one week prior to the due date. Options for essay topics will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the due date for essays 1 and 2, and at least one month in advance of the due date for essay 3.

There will, additionally, be 12 short, in-class quizzes (consisting of multiple choice, short answer, etc.), generally on the topic of that day's readings. These quizzes will not be announced in advance, and therefore rely on your regular attendance. Failure to attend a class in which a quiz takes place, unless the reason for that absence is documented by your Academic Advisor, will result in a grade of zero on that quiz. However, your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped when calculating your final grade (i.e., your final

grade will only take into account your 10 best quiz grades).

Participation will be graded both on your attendance in class (5%), and on your active and thoughtful engagement with and contribution to course content (5%). It should be noted that this may include one-on-one email and in-office discussions with me; someone who is shy about speaking in groups should not be concerned that this will adversely affect her grade. It should also be noted that I am more concerned with the *quality* than with the *quantity* of active participation: throughout the year, I will be watching for evidence that you are engaging meaningfully and thoughtfully with readings, lectures, and in-class discussions.

****N.B.**** Students enrolled in Philosophy 1000E may have assignment instructions or exams which differ slightly from those of 1300E; however, the number of assignments, essays, quizzes, and tests, and their relative weight, will be the same.

Evaluation Summary:

Assignments - 5 x 3%	15%
Quizzes - 10 x 1%	10%
Essays - 2 x 5% + 1 x 10%	20%
Participation	10%
Mid-year exam	15%
Final exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Students must pass both the term work and the final exam to pass the course.

Course Objectives:

The student who successfully completes this course can expect to have gained the following skills (this list is not intended to be exhaustive):

1. Students will be able to read and comprehend a wide array of philosophically and intellectually challenging texts.
2. Students will learn to write a persuasive philosophy essay.
3. Students will be able to write clearly and effectively.
4. Students will be able to edit their own writing.
5. Students will be able to identify and avoid major fallacies of argumentation.
6. Students will be able to identify attributes of the major historical periods of philosophy, from pre-socratic to modern.
7. Students will be able to reason logically.
8. Students will gain critical thinking skills.

9. Students will know the names, titles and content of many of the most important and influential texts in the philosophical canon by some of its very best practitioners.
10. Students will acquire the knowledge of proper format and citation in essay writing in the field of philosophy.
11. Students will be able to interpret and explain complex elements in philosophical texts.
12. Students will acquire heightened communication skills.

Policy on Late Assignments and Essays:

Assignments and essays are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Assignments worth less than 5% of the course grade will not normally be accepted past the deadline. Except in documented cases of accommodation recommended by the student's Academic Advisor, assignments worth 5% of the course grade or more will be penalized 5% per day late, including weekends and holidays, and no term work will be accepted after the last day of classes.

PLAGIARISM of any kind is a serious academic offence. Be advised that electronic plagiarism-detection programmes will be used and essay banks checked, if the instructor has any suspicion of plagiarism. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing both in the body and at the end of the assignment. **Any borrowings from secondary sources, whether wordings or ideas, must be acknowledged BOTH in the main body of your essay AND at the end in a bibliography or works cited!** If you have any doubts about how to document your work correctly, check with your professor prior to handing in your essay. See the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation must be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation. A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial

consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is not adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

All

documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor. Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner. The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered. If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility. The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar. If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse. The penalties for a student guilty of a

scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western

Ontario.