

LOOKING AT PHILOSOPHY
FYSM 1208A
FALL/WINTER 2012 – 2013
PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN
PA3A61 EXT 1783

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to some of the major thinkers and themes of western philosophy including writings by Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Nietzsche, and Marx, for example, on questions of truth, goodness, knowledge, politics and power. The course will emphasize close and precise reading of primary texts and will be run as a seminar with individual students assuming responsibility for introducing each of the designated weekly readings. Assessment will be based on seminar participation, presentations, and reports, a series of small essay assignments, and a final exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Classic Philosophical Questions. Fourteenth Edition. Edited by Robert J. Mulvaney (Prentice-Hall, 2012).

A Fairly Honourable Defeat. Iris Murdoch (penguin p/b).

Available from **AllBooks**, 327 Rideau St. next to the Bytowne Cinema. Open 10.00 am – 9.00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9.00 pm Sun. Tel: 613 789 9544.

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS

These are available on Reserve (RSV) at the MacOdrum Library. Required texts for the Winter semester will be announced later.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 15%).

EVALUATION (provisional)

Seminar 1	10%
Seminar 2	10%
Test 1	10%
Test 2	10%
Test 3	20%
Test 4	20%
Final Exam	20%

SEMINAR

All students will be responsible for at least 2 seminar presentations according to the instructions attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual seminar presentations as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

OFFICE HOURS — THURSDAYS 12:30 – 1:30 and/or by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE (Fall Semester).

Note: this outline is PROVISIONAL. A revised outline will be distributed in class on 13 September.

week 1 Introduction and assignment of seminar responsibilities.

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

week 2 **Plato**
Euthyphro: Defining Philosophical Terms. Chapter 1, pp. 1 – 11.

week 3 **The Trial of Socrates**
The Apology, Phaedo, and Crito: The Trial, Immortality, and Death of Socrates. Chapter 2, pp. 12 – 25.

week 4 **The Trial of Socrates (cont'd)**
The Apology ... etc. Chapter 2, pp. 25 – 34.

week 5 **CLASS TEST (10%)**

PHILOSOPHY AND THE GOOD LIFE

week 6 **Two Classic Views of the Good Life**
Epicurus and the Pleasant Life. Chapter 53.
Epicurus and the Life of Self-Control. Chapter 54.

week 7 **What Gives Life Meaning?**
Leo Tolstoy: Faith Provides Life's Meaning. Chapter 55.
Albert Camus: Each Person Determines His or Her Life's Meaning. Chapter 56.

week 8 **TBA**

week 9 **CLASS TEST (10%)**

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

week 10 **Can We Prove That God Exists?**
St. Anselm: The Ontological Argument. Chapter 3.
St. Thomas Aquinas: The Cosmological Argument. Chapters 4.

week 11 **Can We Prove That God Exists? (cont'd)**
William Paley: The Teleological Argument. Chapter 5.
Blaise Pascal: It is Better to Believe in God's Existence Than To Deny It. Chapter 6.
William James: Free Choice Is the Basis of Belief. Chapter 7

week 12 **Does the Idea of a Good God Exclude Evil?**
Gottfried Wilhem Leibniz: God Can Allow Some Evil. Chapter 8.
David Hume: A Good God Would Exclude Evil. Chapter 9.

week 13 'Above the Gods. A Dialogue About Religion'
Acastos, by Iris Murdoch, pp. 67 – 131 (RSV).

Distribution of TAKE-HOME EXAM. Due 10 January 2013.

The Outline for the Winter Semester will be distributed later. It will include readings from *Classic Philosophical Questions* Part 3 (Ethics), Part 6 (Social and Political Philosophy), and Part 4 (Knowledge).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Classic Philosophical Questions

1. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 5 below.)
2. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty**, either of comprehension or agreement, and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 5 below.)
3. Choose **one** of the 'To Study Questions' and **one** of the 'To Think About' passages that you would most like to have discussed in class.
4. Summarise the **principal argument** of the assigned reading(s) in 2 or 3 sentences.
5. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of your presentation.

[Use the same seminar instructions without # 3 for 'Above the Gods' by Iris Murdoch (week 13)]

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2012-13)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or

<http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Important Dates:

Sept. 6	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 5	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 19	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 3	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 3	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 4-5	No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 6-19	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 19	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 7	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 18	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 27	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 29	Good Friday – university closed
Apr. 10	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. NOTE: On this day all classes follow a Friday schedule.
Apr. 10	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 11-12	No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 13-27	Final Examinations.
Apr. 27	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735