

**PHIL 1000-B: Introductory Philosophy: Fields, Figures, and Problems**  
**January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.**

**Class**

Location: University Centre 231  
Time: Wednesday, 11:35am–12:55pm  
Friday, 11:35am–12:55pm

**Office Hours**

Location: 329B Paterson Hall  
Time: Tuesday, 1:30pm–2:30pm  
Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to both influential figures and problems in the history of philosophy and methodologies for doing philosophy today. We will consider questions such as: What is the good life? What is existence? And: What is justice?

We will read figures—among them Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Spinoza—who are part of the Western canon, and others—such as Princess Elisabeth, Marx, Bergson, and Beauvoir—who challenge many of the assumptions of that tradition. Our goal for the course is to assemble a set of conceptual tools that will allow us to think critically about what it means to do philosophy. We will cultivate practices for reading philosophical texts, posing critical questions, and expressing our thoughts through writing.

**Evaluation:**

- Test 1: February 3<sup>rd</sup> (30%)
- Test 2: March 17<sup>th</sup> (30%)
- Final Exam: Date, time, and location TBA (40%)

**Policies and Procedures:**

1. Professionalism: I require that students adopt a professional attitude towards class conduct. Please be on time and wait to leave until class is over. Please do not engage in discussions that are unrelated to class material. Cellular phones should be turned off and calls should be taken after class is over excepting cases of extreme emergency: imminent mortality (birth or death) or imprisonment. Most importantly, I also expect class discussions to be conducted at a respectful and professional level.
2. The tests will be held in the regular class location at the regular class time. You are expected to bring your student ID to all tests and arrive on time. Graded tests will be returned to you two weeks after the date of the test. For information on the Final Exam, see below.
3. If you miss an exam, you must notify the professor within 48 hours. This is your responsibility. If you are excused from an exam (for medical reasons, etc., as determined by the professor) you must make up the exam at the following times: For Test 1, the make up date is February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm–2:20pm; Test 2 March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00pm–2:20pm. The location is 329B Paterson Hall. **There are no exceptions.**

4. Email to the professor should indicate the name, student number, and course. The subject line should read PHIL 1000B. Please note that I reserve the right to not answer an email if it requests information that is provided on the syllabus or on other distributed documents.

## Required Readings

*The following books are available at All Books, 327 Rideau Street (Hours: 11am–9pm, except Sunday: 12pm–9pm):*

- Henri Bergson, *An Introduction to Metaphysics*. Trans. T.E. Hulme (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1999). ISBN: 978-0-87220-474-4
- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Trans. Donald A. Cress (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1993). ISBN: 0-87220-192-9
- Baruch Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001). ISBN: 0-87220-607-6

*These required readings are available through the ARES reserve system:*

- Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, in *The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Ed. Richard McKeon (New York: The Modern Library, 2001), 935–964.
- Simone de Beauvoir, “Introduction to an Ethics of Ambiguity,” in *Philosophical Writings*. Ed. Margaret A. Simons (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004), 279–298.
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*. Trans. Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier (New York: Vintage, 2011), 3–17.
- Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and René Descartes, *The Correspondence between Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and René Descartes*. Ed. Lisa Shapiro (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), 114–132.
- Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity*. Trans. George Eliot [Mary Ann Evans] (Mineola: Dover Publications, 2008), 6; 9–27.
- Karl Marx, “Toward a Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction,” in *Selected Writings*. Ed. Lawrence H. Simon (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994), 27–39.
- Plato, *The Republic*, in *Complete Works*. Ed. John M. Cooper and D.S. Hutchinson (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1997), 1052–1077; 1199–1212.
- Léopold Sédar Senghor. ‘African-Negro Aesthetics,’ *Diogenes* 4 (1956): 23–38.
- Léopold Sédar Senghor, “Negritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century,” in *African Literature*. Ed. Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), 195–202.

### Reading Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1	January 6	Introduction
Week 2	January 11, 13	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book IV, Book X
Week 3	January 18, 20	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books 1, 2
Week 4	January 25, 27	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 1, 2
Week 5	February 1	Review
	<b>February 3</b>	<b>Test 1</b>
Week 6	February 8, 10	Descartes, <i>Mediations</i> , 6 Princess Elisabeth and Descartes, "Correspondence"
Week 7	February 15, 17	Spinoza, <i>TPT</i> , Preface, Chapters 4, 6
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>February 22, 24</b>	<b>Study Week, no classes</b>
Week 9	March 1, 3	Spinoza, <i>TPT</i> , Chapters 14, 16
Week 10	March 8, 10	Feuerbach, <i>The Essence of Christianity</i> Marx, "Toward a Critique of Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> "
Week 11	March 15	Review
	<b>March 17</b>	<b>Test 2</b>
Week 12	March 22, 24	Bergson, <i>An Introduction to Metaphysics</i>
Week 13	March 29, 31	Senghor, "Negritude"; "African-Negro Aesthetics" Beauvoir, "Introduction to an Ethics of Ambiguity"
Week 14	April 5, 7	Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> ; Review

**April 10–25: Final Exam Period. Date and location of the Final Exam is to be announced. Exams are scheduled during the day and evening, on weekdays and on weekends. Please do not schedule vacations during this period (or during the dates of the tests, for that matter), for travel does not constitute a reason to defer the final exam or the tests.**

### **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:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- 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 (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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*). Requests made within two

weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735