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# PHIL 2010

## Issues in Theoretical Philosophy

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### Fall 2012 - Course Outline

<https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1u8dFmnrkbnW43CI-UL77HIj6kGlyBq8n06g78QLgUA8>

#### **I. Instructor**

Gabriele Contessa  
Office: Paterson 3A43  
Office Hours: TBA  
E-mail: [gabriele\\_contessa@carleton.ca](mailto:gabriele_contessa@carleton.ca)

#### **II. Description**

The main purpose of the course is to help you develop your ability to reconstruct and evaluate philosophical arguments and to introduce you to the dynamics of philosophical debates by looking at some standard debates in theoretical philosophy.

*Unit 1: Arguments* is a short introduction to the basic techniques and concepts of argument analysis, which will provide you with the tools to reconstruct and evaluate philosophical arguments. In the remaining units, you will learn to apply those tools to philosophical arguments concerning issues in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of action, including the analysis of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of minds and the possibility of free will.

#### **III. Prerequisites**

Registration in a Honors or Combined Honors Philosophy program, the Philosophy, Ethics and Public Affairs program, or permission by the Department.

#### **IV. Readings**

The readings marked [CP] can be found in the Course Pack (which can be bought through the campus bookstore).

The readings marked [www] can be downloaded through the electronic library or on the internet at the specified URL.

Please remember to bring the readings with you to all classes because we'll use them sometimes!

## V. Assignments and Grading (Please see schedule below for dates and deadlines)

- a. Two in-class Quizzes (the best of which worth 15% of the final grade).
- b. Three short Assignments (the best of which worth 35% of the final grade, the worst 15%, and the remaining one 25%);
- c. Class attendance and participation worth 10% of the final grade.

## VI. Policies

**Attendance.** Lecture attendance is required. This means that you are responsible for all material covered in the lectures (including any handouts) and for all announcements made in class (including changes in deadlines, reading schedule, etc.).

**Readings.** You are responsible for finding out what the readings for the next class are and for reading them carefully and attentively before class. If you are unsure about what the reading for the next class is, please consult the most updated version of the course outline, which can be found at .

**Communications.** You are responsible for checking this course outline regularly for any changes and your Carleton e-mail account frequently for important announcements and other messages related to the course.

**Assignments.** Please follow very carefully the instructions for each assignment, which will be sent to you by e-mail to your Carleton account at least two week before the deadline for the assignment. If you have not received an e-mail message instructions two weeks prior to an assignment deadline, please contact me as soon as possible. *Failure to follow the instructions may result in your assignment being penalized or not being graded.*

All assignments are to be completed using the template that will be sent with the instructions. All assignments are to be submitted by sending them as .doc, .docx or .rtf attachment to [gabriele\\_contessa@carleton.ca](mailto:gabriele_contessa@carleton.ca) by the end of the day on which the Assignment is due (please see Course Schedule for assignment deadlines). If it is not practically possible or it is extremely inconvenient for you to use any of those file formats, please contact me as soon as possible. Unless you made alternative arrangements with me in writing, Assignments in any other format, including PDF or hard copy, will *not* be accepted.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have a copy of the e-mail in your 'Sent Items' folder as proof of your submission and that that copy includes your assignment as an attachment. If you don't have a sent item folder, you should cc the e-mail to your own e-mail address. If I do not receive your assignment and you are not able to show me proof of on-time submission, you will be penalized as if you had submitted the assignment late.

Extensions will be granted only in *extraordinary* circumstances (e.g. serious illness or family emergency) *and* only if the extension is requested *in writing before* the assignment deadline. If you think you may need an extension please contact me as soon as possible by e-mail.

Unless I have granted you an extension in writing, 5 points will be subtracted from your grade for every day the assignment is late. Late assignments will be marked but not commented upon in writing. If you wish to receive feedback on a late assignment, you will have to make an appointment with me.

*Failing to submit an assignment or missing the quiz will result in a 0% on that assignment/quiz.*

While I am happy to answer any general questions about your assignments, please be advised that I cannot provide any specific feedback on draft assignments.

**Academic Integrity.** *All written work must be your own.* If you use someone else's words or ideas, the source must be cited appropriately. 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, page 56 or <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>). Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and I am bound to report any suspected case of plagiarism directly to the Office of the Dean.

*All final grades are subject to the approval of the Dean.*

**VII. (Tentative) Schedule** (Please check this course outline regularly for any changes)

	<b><i>Unit 1: Arguments</i></b>
Sep 6	<i>Intro</i>
Sep 12	<i>Sentences and Propositions</i>
Sep 14	<i>Truth and Belief</i>
Sep 19	<i>Validity, Cogency and Strength</i>
Sep 21	<i>Validity, Validity, Validity, and ... Did I Mention Validity?</i>
Sep 26	<i>And Now for Something Completely Different---Validity</i>
	<b><i>Unit 2: Knowledge</i></b>
Sep 28	<i>Descartes' Skeptical Arguments</i> René Descartes 'First Meditation' in <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> . [www] URL: <a href="http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/descmedi.pdf">http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/descmedi.pdf</a> pp. 1-4.
Oct 3	<i>Putnam's Brain-in-a-vat Argument</i> Hilary Putnam 'Brains in A Vat' [CP]
<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>No class! (University Day)</b>
Oct 10	<i>Contextualism</i> David Lewis 'Elusive Knowledge'
<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>Quiz 1!!!</b>
	<b><i>Unit 3: God</i></b>
Oct 12	<i>Anselm's Ontological Argument</i> Anselm, 'The Classical Ontological Argument'. [CP]
<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Assignment 1 Deadline!!!</b>
Oct 17	<i>Pascal's Wager</i> Blaise Pascal, 'On the Necessity of the Wager' <i>Section 233 only</i> . [www] URL: <a href="http://www.classicallibrary.org/pascal/pensees/pensees03.htm">http://www.classicallibrary.org/pascal/pensees/pensees03.htm</a>

Oct 17	<b>Quiz 2!!!</b>
Oct 19	<i>Hume's Argument from Evil</i> David Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> , Part 10. [www] URL: <a href="http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/humedial.pdf">http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/humedial.pdf</a>
Oct 24	<i>Plantinga's Free Will Argument</i> Alvin Plantinga, 'The Free Will Defense'. [CP]
	<b>Unit 4: Mind</b>
Oct 26	<i>Descartes' Dualist Argument</i> René Descartes 'Second Meditation' in <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> . [www] URL: <a href="http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/descmedi.pdf">http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/descmedi.pdf</a> pp.4-8.
Oct 31	<i>The Exclusion Argument</i> Karen Bennett 'Why The Exclusion Problem Seems Intractable and How, Just Maybe, to Tract It'
Nov 2	<i>Putnam's Multiple Realization Argument and Searle's Chinese Room Argument</i> Hilary Putnam 'The Nature of Mental States'. [CP]
Nov 6	<i>Assignment 2 Deadline!!!</i>
	<b>Unit 5: Freedom</b>
Nov 7	<i>The Argument from Determinism</i> Peter van Inwagen 'The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism' [CP]
Nov 9	<i>The Compatibilist Argument</i> R. E. Hobart 'Free Will as Involving Determinism and Inconceivable without It' <i>Mind</i> , 43 (1934), pp. 1-27. [www] URL: <a href="http://links.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/sici?sici=0026-4423%28193401%292%3A43%3A169%3C1%3AFWAIDA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-4">http://links.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/sici?sici=0026-4423%28193401%292%3A43%3A169%3C1%3AFWAIDA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-4</a>
Nov 14	<i>The Argument for Agent Freedom</i> Roderick M. Chisholm 'Human Freedom and the Self'. [CP]
Nov 16	
Nov 21	TBA
Nov 23	TBA
Nov 28	TBA
Nov 30	TBA
Dec 3	<i>Assignment 3 Deadline!!!</i>

## 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/acadre/univ14.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](mailto: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. 20	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 <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
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735