

LOOKING AT PHILOSOPHY
FYSM 1208A
FALL/WINTER 2011 – 2012
PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN
PA 3A61 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 TEXT

Classic Philosophical Questions. Thirteenth Edition. Edited by Robert J. Mulvaney (Prentice-Hall, 2009).

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 at the MacOdrum Library (RSV). 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

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 – FALL SEMESTER
Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm and/or by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE (Fall Semester)

week 1 Introduction and assignment of seminar responsibilities.

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

week 2 **Plato and the Trial of Socrates**
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapter 1, pp. 1 – 11.

week 3 **Plato and the Trial of Socrates** (cont'd)
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapter 2, pp. 12 – 25.

week 4 **Plato and the Trial of Socrates** (cont'd)
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapter 2, pp. 25 – 34.

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

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

week 6 **Can We Prove That God Exists?**
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapters 3 & 4, pp. 37 – 55.

week 7 **Can We Prove That God Exists?** (cont')
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapters 5, 6 & 7, pp. 56 – 71.

week 8 **Does the Idea of a Good God Exclude Evil?**
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapters 9 & 10, pp. 72 – 90.

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

week 10 'Above the Gods. A Dialogue About Religion'
Acastos, by Iris Murdoch, pp. 67 – 131 (RSV).

PHILOSOPHY AND THE GOOD LIFE

week 11 **Two Classic Views of the Good Life**
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapters 53 & 54, pp. 525 – 540.

week 12 **What Gives Life Meaning?**
Classic Philosophical Questions, Chapters 55 & 56, pp. 541 – 564.

week 13 **TBA**
Distribution of Take-Home Exam. Due 12 January 2012

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

FYSM 1208A

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 10)]

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

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:

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 me 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/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

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