

# FYSM 1208 Looking at Philosophy Carleton University

## Course Outline

**Term:** Fall-Winter 2019-2020

**Time:** Tues. & Thurs 11:35 am –12:55 pm

**Location:** TBA

**Instructor:** Philippe-Antoine Hoyeck

**Office:** PA 3A56

**Office hours:** Tues. 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Phone:** N/A

**Email:** philippeantoin.hoyeck@carleton.ca

### Course Description

This course explores the perennial questions of philosophy, including: What is logical thinking? Does God exist? Are values relative? Do we have responsibilities? What is a just society? Do we have free will? What is the mind? What is the nature of reality?

### Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to contemporary arguments and concepts in four sub-disciplines of philosophy: ethics, philosophy of religion, political theory, and metaphysics. Students will learn transferable skills in critical thinking by reconstructing and evaluating arguments taken from a variety of contexts. Special emphasis will also be placed upon acquiring university level essay writing skills.

### Course Materials

The course is organized as a seminar. Students are expected to review readings ahead of time and to come prepared to discuss them. Students are responsible for all materials seen in class, including videos and documents not on the syllabus. All materials, including readings, will be posted on CULearn for students' convenience.

### Course Requirements

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Attendance does not factor directly into students' grades. However, a significant portion of the final grade (30%) will be based on students' performance in in-class activities including short quizzes, debates, and responses to various media. Activities will require students to be familiar with concepts explored throughout the semester and with the readings for the week.

### Evaluations:

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|---|-----|
| • In-class activities                       | 30% |
| • Assignment #1 (due Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> ) | 10% |
| • Assignment #2 (due Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> ) | 10% |
| • Essay #1 (due Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> )      | 15% |
| • Essay #2 (due April 2 <sup>nd</sup> )     | 15% |
| • Take-home final exam                      | 20% |

Students may submit Essay #1 early (by Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>) to be handed back to them within two weeks. They may then resubmit the essay with modifications to be graded again. Only the higher of the two grades will count toward their final grade.

### Course Policies

- 10% will be deducted from late assignments per day. Extensions will be granted only under special circumstances and may require documentation.
- Assignments and essays are to be submitted in class. Late essays can be left in the drop box at the philosophy department. No online submissions will be accepted.
- In-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances. However, only the top 15 activities (out of a minimum of 17) will be counted in students' final grade.
- Students who miss class are expected to obtain notes from their peers; however, they are also encouraged to consult the instructor during regular office hours or by appointment for additional clarification.
- The instructor will try to respond to emails promptly. However, students should allow up to two business days for answers.

### Course Calendar — Fall 2019

<b>Week 1</b> <b>September 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to Course</b> No readings
<b>Week 2</b> <b>September 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics I — Morality and Evolution</b> <b>Reading:</b> Jonathan Haidt, "The Emotional Dog and Its Rational Tail"
<b>Week 3</b> <b>September 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics II — Cultural Relativism</b> <b>Reading:</b> Ruth Benedict, "Anthropology and the Abnormal" Mary Midgley, "Trying Out One's New Sword"
<b>Week 4</b> <b>September 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics III — Moral Agency</b> <b>Reading:</b> Thomas Nagel & Bernard Williams, "Moral Luck" <i>Assignment #1 assigned September 24<sup>th</sup></i>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>October 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Ethics IV — Objectivity in Ethics</b> <b>Reading:</b> Kararzyna de Lazari-Radek & Peter Singer, "The Objectivity of Ethics and the Unity of Practical Reason" <i>Assignment #1 due October 1<sup>st</sup></i>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>October 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics V — Ethics without Principles</b> <b>Reading:</b> Carol Gilligan, "In a Different Voice" Sara Ruddick, "Maternal Thinking"
<b>Week 7</b> <b>October 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Essay Writing workshop</b> No readings <i>Essay #1 assigned October 17<sup>th</sup></i>

<b>Fall Break</b> <b>Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Week 8</b> <b>October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion I — The Existence of God</b> <b>Reading:</b> Bertrand Russell, “Why I Am Not a Christian”
<b>Week 9</b> <b>November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion II — Religion and Science</b> <b>Reading:</b> William James, “The Will to Believe”
<b>Week 10</b> <b>November 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion III — Modernized Religious Faith</b> <b>Reading:</b> Charles Taylor, <i>Varieties of Religion Today</i> , ch. 3 <i>Last day to submit Essay #1 early, November 14<sup>th</sup></i>
<b>Week 11</b> <b>November 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion IV — Religion and Morality</b> <b>Reading:</b> R.M. Hare, “The Simple Believer”
<b>Week 12</b> <b>November 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion V — Religious Pluralism</b> <b>Reading:</b> John Hick, “Ineffability”
<b>Week 13</b> <b>December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Catch up &amp; General discussion</b> No readings <i>Essay #1 due December 5<sup>th</sup></i>

### Course Calendar — Winter 2020

The course calendar for winter 2020 will be posted on CULearn between December 5<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The calendar will be divided into two units: political theory (Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>–Feb 13<sup>th</sup>) and metaphysics (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>). Topics covered will include the relation between democracy and human rights, the political consequences of religious pluralism, the nature of personal identity, and the problem of free will and determinism.

## **Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)**

### **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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

### **Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Deferrals for Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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.

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **Academic Accommodation:**

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**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/>

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** as a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

**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
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735