

**Introductory Philosophy: Fields, Figures, and Problems  
PHIL 1000 A – Fall 2017**

Lectures: Tue/Thu 8:30-10:00

Classroom: 231 University Centre

Professor: Christopher McGrath

Email: [christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca](mailto:christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca)

Office: 3A54 Paterson

Office Hours: Tue/Thu 10:00-11:30 or by appointment

**Class Description:**

What is metaphysics? Who was Socrates? What is Freedom? This introduction sketches many branches of philosophy and the important problems associated with each. It introduces great philosophers, present and past, and traces enduring philosophical themes.

In this course, we will try to cover a broad introduction to philosophy. Our introduction will be conducted by surveying some of the major fields of philosophical research. For each field, we will consider a variety of different approaches to its definitive problems, so that by comparing and contrasting them we will get a sense both of what the general project of these research fields is, as well as introducing some of the major ways that these projects have been approached. At the same time, by studying some of the influential ideas in these fields as our source for understanding them, we'll be able to introduce and discuss some of the major figures and problems from the history of philosophy.

In the first part of the course, focusing on theoretical philosophy, we discuss two major fields of philosophical research: epistemology, and logic and the philosophy of language. In the second part of the course, where we shift our focus to practical philosophy, we will discuss two further fields: ethics and political philosophy. Throughout these discussions we will focus on how these fields, and the problems and approaches taken in them, help clarify what philosophy is and illustrate how work in philosophy is approached. In the third part of the course, this theme will become our overt focus. We will discuss metaphysics, as another specialized field of philosophical research, and conclude by trying to summarize how our work throughout the semester has provided us with a means to answer the question: What is philosophy?

Accordingly, students should come away from the course with an introductory understanding of epistemology, logic and philosophy of language, ethics, political philosophy, and metaphysics, as fields of philosophical research; they should have a basic understanding of some of the major problems and approaches characteristic of these fields; and, connecting all of these themes, they should have an understanding of what sorts of problems and approaches are characteristic of philosophical thinking in general.

**Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:**

#	Date	Lecture	Reading
1	Sep 07	Introduction to the Course I	
I. Introduction to Theoretical Philosophy			
2	Sep 12	Introduction to the Course II	Descartes (I), Locke
3	Sep 14	Epistemology I: Foundationalism I	Descartes (II)

4	Sep 19	Epistemology II: Anti-Foundationalism I	Daniels
5	Sep 21	Epistemology III: Foundationalism II	Hume
6	Sep 26	Epistemology IV: Anti-Foundationalism II	TBD...
7	Sep 28	Logic and Language I: Ideal Language	
8	Oct 03	Logic and Language II: Ordinary Language	
9	Oct 05	Review	
10	Oct 10	<b>Test #1</b>	
II. Introduction to Practical Philosophy			
11	Oct 12	Ethics I: The Queerness of Norms	
12	Oct 17	Ethics II: The Ordinarity of Norms	
13	Oct 19	Ethics III: Supreme Goods in Ethics	
	Oct 24	Fall Break – No Class	
	Oct 26	Fall Break – No Class	
14	Oct 31	Ethics IV: Experimentalism in Ethics	
15	Nov 02	Political Philosophy I: A Classical View	
16	Nov 07	Political Philosophy II: A Liberal View	
17	Nov 09	Review	
18	Nov 14	<b>Test #2</b>	
III. Introduction to Metaphilosophy			
19	Nov 16	Metaphysics I: As First Philosophy	
20	Nov 21	Metaphysics II: As Second Philosophy	
21	Nov 23	Metaphysics III: As a Special Science	

22	Nov 28	Metaphysics IV: As Therapeutic	
23	Nov 30	Philosophy as the Art of Living	
24	Dec 05	Conclusion: What is Philosophy?	
25	Dec 07	Review	
	Dec 10-22	<b>Final Exam Period</b>	

### **Assessment:**

Final marks will be based on three tests, the first two held in class and the third held during the final exam period. These tests will be non-cumulative, each covering only that material since the previous test, so that each covers about one third of the course, and will involve short answer questions derived from the readings as they are covered in class. The tests will be equally weighted, so that each contributes a third of your final mark. Consult the schedule of lectures for the dates of the in-class tests.

*Note: Alternative testing dates will be provided in the case of documented medical problems interrupting your studies, or similar unavoidable events. To obtain an alternate date, you must contact the professor as soon as is feasible, once you are aware of the problem.*

### **Readings:**

*Note: Readings for at least much of the course are in the public domain and can be accessed online. For some of the readings, I may have to consider the most convenient way to get them to you, and will likely prepare a collection for purchase. We may adjust the reading schedule as the term progresses, according to our ability to adequately cover the material.*

Descartes (I), *Discourse on the Method*  
Parts I and II

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/59>

Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*  
Epistle (just the first seven paragraphs) and Introduction

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/10615>

Descartes (II), *Meditations on First Philosophy*  
Meditation I and Meditation II

<http://www.wright.edu/~charles.taylor/descartes/mede.html>

Daniels, "Reflective Equilibrium" (*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)

\* You can skip sections 2.2, 3.2.2, 4.2, and 4.3.

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reflective-equilibrium/>

Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*  
Sections II-III

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/9662>

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### **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 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:

**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*). 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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	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.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	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. 10-22	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. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	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.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> 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. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	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