

PHIL 1620 A – Great Philosophical Ideas, Part Two

Winter 2022

Instructor: Christopher McGrath

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30-4:00pm

Office: Virtual Office via Brightspace

Lecture Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:30pm

Classroom: Virtual Class via Course Webpage

Lecture Format: Pre-Recorded / Asynchronous – available to watch at any time after the scheduled date

Course Description:

Major figures and developments in philosophy after the year 1400. Descriptive and comparative approach, providing an understanding of the place of philosophers in the history of thought. Appreciation of critical reasoning is included for comprehending philosophical developments.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a survey of the major developments of modern philosophy, understood as the typical expressions of philosophical work in the period beginning with the Enlightenment or early modern era around the mid-17th century and ending prior to the emergence of a broadly contemporary philosophical culture around the early-20th century. In surveying these developments, we will take the fairly conventional step of distinguishing between the Enlightenment or early modern era of the 17th-18th centuries and the late modern era of the long 19th century. This distinction gives us the division of the course into two main units.

Unit one will consist of three extended lessons: on early modern rationalism, early modern empiricism, and on the philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Unit two will likewise consist of three lessons: on the philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer, on 19th century positivism and materialism, and on the 19th century foundations of existentialism.

In each lesson we will try to cover a certain breadth of topics by engaging with both theoretical philosophy and practical philosophy. The lectures on theoretical philosophy will endeavor to clarify the relevant developments in our understanding of knowledge, highlighting where helpful the connection of these philosophical issues to developments in the natural sciences. The lectures on practical philosophy will cover relevant material on ethics, passions, value theory, and the meaning of life.

Throughout the course our engagement with these philosophical developments will proceed primarily through a study of brief selections taken from the primary sources – the great works of philosophy from the early modern and late modern eras. The intent of the lectures will be to explain and clarify the central ideas developed in these texts, and the reasoning motivating them.

Students diligently completing course requirements should expect to come away from the term with a basic acquaintance with the major developments of modern philosophy and with improved abilities in analytic reading and comprehension practiced by working through the challenges of studying primary sources from the history of philosophy.

Lecture Schedule:

Lecture topics may be adjusted pending our ability to adequately get through the material in class.

Date:	Topic:	Reading Selections Taken From:
	Introduction	
Jan 11	Introduction to the Course - Administrative	n/a
Jan 13	Introduction to the Course - Thematic	Descartes' <i>Discourse on the Method</i>
	Unit One: Early Modern Philosophy	
Jan 18	Rationalism – Theoretical Philosophy	Descartes' <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>
Jan 20	Rationalism – Theoretical Philosophy	Descartes' <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>
Jan 25	Rationalism – Practical Philosophy	Spinoza's <i>Ethics</i>
Jan 27	Rationalism – Practical Philosophy	Spinoza's <i>Ethics</i>
Feb 01	Empiricism – Theoretical Philosophy	Hume's <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
Feb 03	Empiricism – Theoretical Philosophy	Berkeley's <i>Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge</i>
Feb 08	Empiricism – Practical Philosophy	Hume's <i>Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i>
Feb 10	Empiricism – Practical Philosophy	Hume's <i>Of the Standard of Taste</i>
Feb 15	Kant – Theoretical Philosophy	Helmholtz's <i>The Facts of Perception</i>
Feb 17	Kant – Practical Philosophy	Korsgaard's <i>The Sources of Normativity</i>
Feb 22	No Class – Winter Break	
Feb 24	No Class – Winter Break	
Mar 01	Concluding Remarks on Unit One	n/a
	Unit Two: Late Modern Philosophy	
Mar 03	Schopenhauer – Theoretical Philosophy	Schopenhauer's <i>Parerga and Paralipomena</i>
Mar 08	Schopenhauer – Practical Philosophy	Schopenhauer's <i>Parerga and Paralipomena</i>
Mar 10	Positivism and Materialism – Theoretical Philosophy	Comte's <i>A General View of Positivism</i>
Mar 15	Positivism and Materialism – Theoretical Philosophy	Marx's <i>The German Ideology</i>
Mar 17	Positivism and Materialism – Practical Philosophy	Marx's <i>The German Ideology</i>
Mar 22	Positivism and Materialism – Practical Philosophy	Comte's <i>A General View of Positivism</i>
Mar 24	Existentialism – Theoretical Philosophy	Nietzsche's <i>On Truth and Lies in a Non-Moral Sense</i>

Mar 29	Existentialism – Theoretical Philosophy	Kierkegaard's <i>Concluding Unscientific Postscript</i>
Mar 31	Existentialism – Practical Philosophy	Kierkegaard's <i>Two Ages</i>
Apr 05	Existentialism – Practical Philosophy	Nietzsche's <i>The Antichrist</i>
Apr 07	Concluding Remarks on Unit Two	n/a
Apr 12	Concluding Remarks on the Course	n/a

Assessment:

Students who are not able to submit an assignment by the due date should contact the instructor at the earliest reasonable opportunity if they still wish to submit it. In cases that reasonably excuse the lateness, a late assignment may be accepted at the instructor's judgment and pending a discussion of the issue with the student. In other cases, a late assignment may be penalized up to 10% of the total mark per day late, at the judgment of the instructor.

Due Date:	Assignment:	Proportion of Final Mark:
FEB 03	Workbook - Rationalism	15%*
FEB 17	Workbook - Empiricism	15%*
MAR 15	Workbook – Kant and Schopenhauer	15%*
MAR 29	Workbook – Positivism and Materialism	15%*
APR 12	Workbook - Existentialism	15%*
APR 28	Term Paper	40%

** Students complete their choice of four out of the five workbooks.*

- Workbooks: 60% total, 15% each (**Due Feb 03, Feb 17, Mar 15, Mar 29, and Apr 12**)

A review question will be posted alongside each of the lectures in units one and two. A workbook, in the sense we'll use this term in the class, is a collection of brief answers to these review questions. In total, the two units will cover five workbooks, each workbook covering a four-class long lesson. Students will be expected to submit their choice of any FOUR of these five workbooks, and in the submitted workbooks provide answers to their choice of any THREE of the four applicable review questions. Submitted workbooks will be due a week after the final class in the lesson they pertain to.

- Term Paper: 40% (**Due Apr 28**)

A final assignment, due at the end of the term, will take the form of a short term paper. Students will have their choice of one of a few assigned questions which their term paper will try to answer. The questions will cover material spanning either unit one or unit two, and students will be expected to show both an understanding of this material and use of common research resources which will be provided.

With permission of the instructor, students may be authorized to submit a term paper on a topic of their choice, provided that it also pertains to early modern or late modern philosophy.

Readings:

Readings will be provided online via the course webpage.

Communications Regarding the Course:

Students are encouraged to drop into virtual office hours with any questions they have, whether about the course material, troubleshooting issues with the course, or just informal questions about philosophy. Virtual office hours can be conducted in “text” or “voice” and are readily accessible through Brightspace, so they provide a convenient way to touch base regarding the course. Students may also contact the instructor via email. Emails will be checked at least up to 4:30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and emails received by this time will be responded to by the next of these dates. Details about contacting the teaching assistant will be posted to the course webpage when they become available.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2021-22)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

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 Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *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 where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *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.

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start.
Sept. 22	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. 11	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 25-29	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 26	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. 10	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. 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. 11-23	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. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 10	Classes begin.
Jan. 24	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. 21	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 22-25	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	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. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. 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. 13	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 14-28	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 28	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735