

## **Issues in Theoretical Philosophy (PHIL2010A)**

Carleton University, Fall 2019

**Day/Time:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8:35 am – 9:55 am **Location:** Southam 317

Dr. Joshua Shepherd

**Office:** Paterson Hall 3A61

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, 10 am – noon

**E-mail:** [Joshua.Shepherd@carleton.ca](mailto:Joshua.Shepherd@carleton.ca)

### **PHIL 2010 [0.5 credit]**

#### **Issues in Theoretical Philosophy**

Issues drawn from epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and related fields will be examined through careful study of significant philosophical texts after 1900, along with some ensuing debates.

Prerequisite(s): enrolment in Honours or Combined Honours Philosophy programs, or in philosophy, Ethics, and Public Affairs, or permission of the Department.

Lectures and discussion three hours a week.

#### **Course Description**

This is an introduction to central issues in analytic philosophy. Main aims: (a) to familiarize students with issues surrounding the nature of universals, reference, causation, truth, mind, free will, and knowledge, (b) to train students in reading, analyzing, and critiquing philosophical writing and argumentation.

#### **Learning outcomes**

Familiarity with key issues, themes, terms, distinctions in current epistemology and metaphysics; improvement in critical thinking, reading and writing skills.

#### **Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

Please turn off (or silence) your cell phones and put them away before the start of class. The use of laptops for the **sole purpose** of note-taking is permitted.

#### **Course Materials**

There are a number of required readings. These are available on cuLearn.

#### **Attendance**

And behold, it is required. I know we meet early. I'm sorry.

## **Course Requirements and Grade policies**

### *Grade Schematic*

Argument maps:	45%
Papers (two, at 22.5% each):	45%
Attendance and participation:	10%

### *Argument Maps*

These will be partially constructed in-class. You will have time to complete them before turning them in the following class. Late argument maps are not accepted.

### *Papers*

You will write two critical papers addressing issues from our three course sections. These papers will build upon your argument maps and your own understanding of the material.

I will discuss these assignments further in class.

Papers will be due on the Friday of Week 6, and at the course's end. Bring a paper copy to the paper box on the philosophy hallway.

Late papers are not accepted.

### **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;*
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

## **Readings**

The course outline gives a general prediction regarding the progress we will make. We may make it all the way to what is predicted for week 12. We may not. We will do a lot of work, so don't worry about it.

## **Course Outline**

*Week One.*

Intro to M&E

*Week Two.*

INDUCTION

Reading: Natural Kindness

SIMILARITY

Reading: Lewis

*Week Three.*

CAUSATION

Reading: Yablo

LAWS

Reading: Dretske

*Week Four.*

Argument maps

*Week Five.*

Argument maps

*Week Six.*

REFERENCE

Reading: Dickie

TRUTH

Reading: Alston

**Paper 1 due**

*Week Seven.*

Argument maps

*Week Eight.*

MIND/CONSCIOUSNESS

Readings: Nagel, Dennett

*Week Nine.*

FREE WILL

Readings: Fischer on Van Inwagen, Watson

*Week Ten.*

KNOWLEDGE

Readings: Huemer, Goldman

*Week Eleven.*

Argument maps

*Week Twelve.*

Argument maps

**Paper 2 due**

## **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](http://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  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
520-2110
- Registrar's Office: 300 Tory  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
520-3500
- Academic Advising Centre: 302 Tory  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
520-7850
- Writing Services: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Library  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
520-3822
- MacOdrum Library <http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
520-2735