

## **COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 4005**

### **Topics in History of Philosophy: Causation and Freedom in Early Modern Philosophy Winter 2018: Mondays, 11:35-13:25, Paterson Hall 3A36**

Professor Melissa Frankel  
Office: Paterson Hall 3A53  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: [Melissa\\_frankel@carleton.ca](mailto:Melissa_frankel@carleton.ca)

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#### **Course description:**

What are laws of nature? What is the relationship between science and metaphysics? In a law-governed world, is there any room for human freedom? What about a law-governed world created and conserved by a divine Being – can humans be free in such a world, and if so, in what sense? In this seminar we will look at early modern approaches to answering these and related questions about causation and freedom. We will be consulting primary texts from such philosophers as Descartes, Malebranche, Locke, and Leibniz, among others.

*Prerequisite for undergraduates:* eligibility for fourth-year standing in a Philosophy Honours program or permission of the Department (i.e., me).

#### **Required text (available at the Carleton bookstore):**

There is no required text for this course.

We will be consulting a variety of primary texts. For those of you who have taken either PHIL 3002 (17<sup>th</sup> c Philosophy) or PHIL 3003 (18<sup>th</sup> c Philosophy), you will already own an anthology of primary texts entitled “Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources,” edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, published by Hackett. This text contains many (but not all) of the sources that we will be looking at, so you may want to keep it on hand. If you do not already own this book, however, I will not require you to purchase it.

Because we will be consulting so many primary sources, I will not require you to purchase any of them individually, either. Instead, I will typically make readings available on cuLearn, either by linking to the library’s e-resources (typically the “Past Masters” database) or through the Ares reserves system. I can also place texts on reserve in the library so that you can read them in hard copy, if this is your preference. Just let me know.

Note: many of these primary texts are also available in full in various places online. However, some online sources are abridged or otherwise altered. If you wish to consult an online source other than the Past Masters database, you must discuss this with me, so that I can help you to evaluate whether or not the source is appropriate.

Sometimes I will ask you to consult secondary sources. Whenever I ask you to consult secondary sources, I will make them available on cuLearn, either through links to e-resources or through Ares.

If you *do* want to purchase the individual texts that we will be looking at, they are all available for purchasing online. If you decide to do this, let me know, and I will send you references for the standard academic version of the texts.

**cuLearn:**

Please note that this course will be supported by the cuLearn Course Management System.

A variety of resources may be made available through the cuLearn site, including some readings for the course. You can access your cuLearn account by going to [www.carleton.ca/culearn](http://www.carleton.ca/culearn) and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password.

Students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to all information distributed to students through the cuLearn Course Page. Information provided on this page will be considered to have been provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

**Evaluation:**

**1. Response papers** – over the course of the semester, I will ask you to write **four (4)** short response papers of **1-2 pages** (double-spaced) each. These response papers will be due at the beginning of class and *should be on the topic of the previous week's reading / class discussion*. I will be asking you to read these response papers in class; you should be prepared to briefly discuss them, as well. Each response paper will be worth **10%** of your final grade for a total of **40%**.

**\*\*Please note:** it is part of the assignment to read the response papers in class. So you should not hand in response papers if you are not planning to attend class. If you hand in a response paper on a week that you do not attend class, you will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade (so: a response paper that would have otherwise earned a grade of B+ will drop to a B, etc.)\*\*

**Scheduling constraints on response papers:**

(a) Because the first two classes are introductory classes, you should not write response papers on them. That is: the first possible response paper you could write would be on the subject matter that we cover in class 3 (Jan 22), and would be due to be read in class 4 (Jan 29).

(b) Because response papers are due the week *after* we discuss the reading on which they are based, you should not write a response paper on the subject matter that we discuss in class 13 (Apr 9). That is: the last possible response paper you could write would be on the subject matter that we cover in class 12 (Apr 2), and would be due to be read in class 13 (Apr 9).

(c) You must write / submit **at least one (1)** of your response papers in the first half of the semester, that is, by **February 26<sup>th</sup>** at the latest. You will only be graded on **three (3)** response papers after this date has passed.

**Submitting response papers:**

Response papers should be submitted **on cuLearn**. You may also submit a hard copy if you like.

### **What are my expectations for response papers?**

Response papers should involve a brief reconstruction or summary of at least one aspect of the previous week's reading, as well as (the following list is not exclusive):

- A clarification of a difficult issue addressed in the reading, or
- A question raised by the previous week's reading, along with the author's answer to that question, or your answer on behalf of the author, or
- An objection to the previous week's reading, along with the author's answer to the objection, or your answer on behalf of the author, or
- An issue addressed by the author that was not raised in the previous class discussion, and that you think ought to be addressed

**2. Final take-home 'exam'** – a mid-length paper (**8-10 pages**) on a topic of your choosing, due on the last day of exam period for the Winter 2018 Semester (**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**) You must consult with me on your topic at least two weeks before the end of classes. Topics *must be approved*.

Final papers should be submitted on cuLearn and will be worth **60%** of your final grade.

### **Lateness policy:**

- \* I will not accept response papers late, because we will be discussing them in class.
- \* No extensions will be granted for final take-home papers, as it is university policy that the last day for handing in take-homes is the last day of exam period (in this case, April 26<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Policies**

**1. Philosophy department policies:** Please see final page of course outline on philosophy department website.

## 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