

**COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 5600**  
**Topics in the History of Philosophy: God in Early Modern Philosophy**  
**Winter 2015: Thursdays, 11:30-2:30 PM, Paterson Hall 3A36**

Professor Melissa Frankel  
Office: Paterson Hall 3A53  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:35-3:35 PM  
Email: Melissa\_frankel@carleton.ca

---

**Course description:**

Discussions of the existence and nature of God play a central role in early modern philosophy. In this course we'll consider some of the ways in which God figures in the philosophical arguments of the 17th and 18th centuries. We will be consulting primary texts from philosophers including Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, and Leibniz, and looking at such diverse topics as proofs of the existence of God, God and the possibility of human free will, God and the problem of evil, God's role in perception, God's causal role, and God and the laws of nature.

**Required texts:**

We will be consulting a variety of primary texts in this course.

I have made an anthology of primary texts available at the Carleton bookstore. The anthology is entitled "Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources," edited by Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, published by Hackett. I will not require you to purchase this book (although if you are taking my 18<sup>th</sup> century philosophy course this semester, you will indeed have to purchase it) but it is a reasonably good compilation of primary sources, and I recommend it.

Because there are so many primary sources, I will not require you to purchase any of them individually, either. Instead, I will ask you to consult the versions available at the library (or through the online "Past Masters" database, available to you on the library's website), and I will typically make readings available on cuLearn. If, however, 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.

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. These will be made available on cuLearn, and you will often also have access to them through your Carleton library access. (E.g., a number of these secondary sources are available through the JSTOR database.)

**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. Presentation** – you will be asked to present a topic to the class at least once during the semester. Presentations should be about 20-30 minutes long, and on a secondary source. For your presentation, you should produce either a detailed handout or a slideshow. You should meet with me at least one week before your presentation, in order to discuss the presentation. Your presentation will be worth **30%** of your grade.

Note: I will ask you to sign up for a presentation topic by the third class of the semester at the very latest.

**2. Final take-home exam** – a mid-length paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of your choosing, due on the last day of exam period for the Winter Semester (April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.) You must consult with me on your topic at least two weeks before final papers are due. Topics *must be approved*. This paper should be submitted on cuLearn and will be worth **60%** of your grade.

**3. Participation** – as graduate students, you are expected to come to class having read the material and being prepared to discuss it. Participation will be worth **10%** of your grade. Note: participation will be judged by quality, not by quantity. I.e., it is not necessary that you constantly participate in class discussion, but in order to count towards the 10%, your comments should be relevant to the material or discussion at hand.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

### **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
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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 Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### **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. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. 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 Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

### **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
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735