

COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 5000A
Special Topic in Philosophy: Philosophy with Children
Winter 2020: Mondays, 11:35-14:25, Paterson Hall 3A36

Professor Melissa Frankel
Office: Paterson Hall 3A53
Office Hours: TBA
Email: Melissa_frankel@carleton.ca

Course description:

Can children genuinely be philosophical? What, if anything, can we ourselves learn about philosophy by doing philosophy with children? The global movement that is sometimes called 'philosophy for children' (P4C), and sometimes – as in this seminar – called 'philosophy *with* children,' is a movement that takes seriously the capacity of children for engaging in philosophical inquiry and dialogue, and that lays out various methodologies for fostering this capacity. In this seminar, we will examine this movement from both a theoretical and a practical standpoint. We will consider the scholarly literature concerning philosophy with children, as well as surveying specific approaches that have been implemented globally for doing philosophy with various age groups. We will then travel to a local public school to implement this theoretical literature by leading and engaging in philosophical discussions with elementary-aged students.

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 doing some theoretical work, and I will ask you to read some articles on philosophy with children. But whenever I do this, I will make those articles available on cuLearn, either through links to e-resources or through Ares.

A large portion of this course will center around practical work. For this practical work, I will be asking you to read some children's literature. This may require that you purchase some children's books, but you may also be able to borrow such books from the local library. As such, I highly recommend that you get a membership to the Ottawa Public Library, if you do not already have one. Here are some instructions for getting a library card:

<https://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/card>

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 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.

cuPortfolio:

Also for this course, we will be using the cuPortfolio platform. You can access your cuPortfolio account by going to <https://cuportfolio.carleton.ca/index.php> and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password. We will have a short tutorial on cuPortfolio at the beginning of the semester. Most class work will be completed on cuPortfolio; you will be able to submit this cuPortfolio work to cuLearn, as the two are linked.

Evaluation:

1. "About Me" (cuPortfolio) (3%)

You will be asked to write up a short introduction to introduce yourself and the course. What attracts you to philosophy or to this course? What are your goals for the semester? You should also add a picture of yourself in this section.

2. Book selection (cuPortfolio) (7%)

You will be asked to choose a children's book and present it in this section. What are the main plot points of the book, why did you choose this book, and what major philosophical theme or themes do you see this book as drawing on? You should also add a picture of the book's cover in this section.

3. Lesson plan (cuPortfolio) (10%)

You will be asked to write up a lesson plan for the book that you've chosen, following a template that we will discuss in class. In the lesson plan you will be asked to summarize the book's plot and explain how, specifically, it ties into one philosophical theme. Then, regarding the theme you've selected, you'll be asked to write up a few questions that you will use to guide a discussion on a topic related to that theme. You'll also be asked to articulate some goals for your lesson.

4. In-class simulation (in class) (cuLearn) (10%)

You will be asked to implement your lesson plan in a simulated classroom discussion with your fellow seminar students during class time. After the simulation, you will be asked to submit a one-page reflection piece on cuLearn, detailing how your simulation went: what you think you got right – and what you think could be improved. Your grade for the simulation will be based on this one-page reflection piece.

5. In-school discussion (elementary school) (20%)

You will be asked to implement your lesson plan in an elementary school classroom. If there is a small number of students in the seminar, you can each implement your individual lesson plan. Then: see (i)
If there is a large number of students in the seminar, you will have to pair up, and choose one person's book to present; you can either choose to use that person's lesson plan, or you can choose to edit that lesson plan to reflect both students' ideas for questions to lead the discussion. Then: see (ii)

(i) If you implement your individual lesson plan: you will be asked to pair up with another student in the seminar. When you implement your lesson plan, the other student will transcribe the discussion; when the other student implements their lesson plan, you will transcribe.

(ii) if you implement a lesson plan as a team of two: you will be asked to pair up with another team of two students. When your team implements your lesson plan, the other team will transcribe the discussion; when the other team implements their lesson plan, your team will transcribe.

6. Post-discussion write-up (cuPortfolio) (10%)

You will be asked to submit a write-up of your lesson on cuPortfolio. The write-up should include at least the following elements: (1) an anonymized transcript of your discussion (that is, a transcript that does not include children's names, but that identifies individual children in some other way) – this transcript does not have to be completely verbatim, but it should include both the questions you asked the class, as well as some highlights of the children's contributions to that discussion, both positive and negative; (2) pictures of any *written* contributions that were made during the in-class discussion, e.g., comments that were written on a blackboard or whiteboard, pictures of children's written work from think-pair-share exercises.

No pictures of any children should appear in this section.

7. Reflection piece (cuLearn) (20%)

You will be asked to submit a 5-7 page paper reflecting on the discussion that you led.

For this paper, you should briefly summarize that discussion, and then you should answer at least the following questions (using your transcript of the discussion, where relevant):

- Lesson plan: Were you able to implement your lesson plan as you had intended? What kinds of surprises did you encounter, if any? Which of your questions was most successful at generating discussion, and which was least successful? Did you accomplish the goals that you had set out in your initial lesson plan? Were there any highlights, any challenges, any things that you would change, if you were to rewrite the lesson plan in light of the discussion that you led?
- Philosophy with children: What did you learn about *children* by doing philosophy with children? What did you learn about *philosophy* by doing philosophy with children?

Note: even if you did this discussion as part of a team, your reflection paper must be the result of an *individual* (non-collaborative) effort.

8. Final presentation (in class) (10%)

On the final day of class, you will be asked to present your Portfolio to your fellow students. You should take them through the highlights of your portfolio: the book you chose for your lesson, the philosophical theme that you see in this book, what you anticipated for your school discussion, and how that discussion actually proceeded: whether it went according to plan or not, and what you learned from it. Food will be provided!

If all students agree, we will invite other members of the philosophy department to attend these presentations. If we can arrange a time that works for everyone, we will do this outside of the designated class time, so that more people can attend if they like.

9. Participation (in class) (10%)

Barring medical reasons or emergencies, you are expected to attend all classes and to participate in discussions and lesson plan simulations.

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 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

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 is 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

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

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. 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. 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 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735