

COURSE OUTLINE: PHIL 2601A / RELI 2738A
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
Fall 2019: Mon-Weds, 10:05 - 11:25, Location TBA

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

General course description (from the Undergraduate Calendar):

A study of philosophical issues arising from religion. Topics may include: arguments for and against the existence of God, religious experience, death and the afterlife, miracles, God and evil, the relationship between religion and science, and the relationship between religion and ethics.

Prerequisite(s): a course in philosophy or second-year standing.

Course description for Fall 2019:

We will cover the following topics this semester (this list is subject to revision):

God's existence

We will look at arguments for and against the existence of God. Arguments will include (but are not limited to) the ontological argument, cosmological argument, design argument, fine-tuning argument, and moral argument. We will also discuss whether arguments are sufficient or even necessary for belief in the existence of God. Do most people believe that God exists on the basis of an argument? Should they?

Divine attributes

We will discuss the various attributes that God is supposed to have, including omnipotence and omniscience. We will address such questions as the following: what does it mean to say that God is omnipotent? Can God be omniscient if humans are free (or: can humans be free if God is omniscient)? Can God be omniscient and omnipotent at the same time? And does it even make sense for humans to attribute qualities to God at all?

The problem of evil

The divine attribute that we will discuss at greatest length is benevolence. A recurring question in the philosophy of religion is whether or not it is possible for God to be good, given the existence of evil. In fact, some people have taken the existence of evil as a definitive argument against the existence of God. We will look at various versions of the problem of evil, as well as theistic attempts to solve the problem.

Religion and science

We will conclude the course with a discussion of whether or not religion is compatible with science. Can a scientist be religious? Can a religious person accept the results of science?

Required text (available at the Carleton bookstore, or various places online):

Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings, fifth edition, ed. Michael Peterson, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, and David Basinger (Oxford University Press, 2014)

There is a hard copy of this text available on reserve at the library.

Schedule of readings:

You will find a detailed schedule (or schedules) of readings on cuLearn. The schedule(s) of readings may be updated throughout the semester; you are responsible for keeping up with the updated schedule.

Sometimes I will assign readings that are not in the required textbook. When I do this, I will be sure to make the readings available online on cuLearn or through the library reserves system, Ares, which is also linked on the cuLearn page for the course. The schedule(s) of readings will indicate whether or not a given reading can be found in the required textbook.

cuLearn:

This course will be supported by the cuLearn Course Management System. You can access your cuLearn account by going to www.carleton.ca/culearn and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password.

A variety of resources as well as important information will be made available through cuLearn, including assignment topics and due dates, test dates, and schedule(s) of readings, which will be updated through the semester.

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

Evaluation:

Note: the dates mentioned below are all **subject to revision**. You are responsible for checking cuLearn to make sure that you have the correct dates. I will also mention the dates in class, especially as they approach.

1. Term work: two very short papers (2 * 15%)

Two short papers will be due over the course of the semester. I will ask you to reconstruct and evaluate a short argument or passage from a philosophical text. Topics will be made available **on cuLearn** two weeks before papers are due. Papers should be submitted **on cuLearn**.

Papers should be two-three pages long, double-spaced and with standard (12-point) font and margins. Each paper will be worth **15%** of your final grade, for a total of **30%**.

Note: All papers must be the result of an individual (i.e., **non-collaborative**) effort.

Assignment due dates (tentative):

The first paper will be due on **Oct 7th, 2019**

The second paper will be due on **Nov 18th, 2019**

Papers will be due on cuLearn at **11:59 PM** on their due dates. Papers submitted after that time will be marked as late. Please see the course policy section, below, for lateness penalties.

2. Test (30%)

There will be an **in-class, closed-book** test mid-way through the semester, worth **30%** of your final grade. You will be permitted to bring a one-page, double-sided “cheat sheet” to the test, upon which you may write or type whatever you like, using whatever size fonts / margins you like. (Note however that you will not be permitted to use any visual aids such as magnifying glasses during the test.)

Test date (tentative):

The test will take place in class on **Oct 16th, 2019**

3. Final exam (40%)

There will be a formally scheduled examination during final exam period, worth **40%** of your final grade. Like the mid-term test, the final exam will be closed-book, but you will be permitted to bring a one-page, double-sided “cheat sheet” upon which you may write or type whatever you like, using whatever size fonts / margins you like. (Note however that you will not be permitted to use any visual aids such as magnifying glasses during the final.)

Final exam date:

The date of the final exam will be determined by Examination Services (that is: not by me!) and will be posted on their website. I am not sure when they will post the final exam schedule, but closer to the end of the semester, you can check here: <https://carleton.ca/ses/exam-schedule/>

Some course policies:

Lateness penalties:

Assignments will be penalized by one third of a grade per day for every day that they are late. For instance, an assignment marked B+ on its merits will be reduced to a B on the first day that it is late, and to a C- on the fifth day.

Extensions:

Extensions *may* be granted *only* if requested *at least 24 hours in advance* and *with a valid reason* (e.g., medical reason). There will be no extensions granted for tests or exams.

For Philosophy department and university policies, see the final page of this course outline.

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 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 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

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