

School of Liberal Arts



PHIL 111
History of Western Philosophy
Winter 2024
3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Matthew Cameron	OFFICE HOURS	By appointment
OFFICE	N/A	CLASSROOM	A2601
E-MAIL	mcameron@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Mon. & Wed., 2:30-4:00pm
TELEPHONE	(867)-668-8770 (Admin. Assistant)	CRN	20141
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Before our academic disciplines divided into broad areas like arts and science, and then further divided into more specialized categories of learning like English, chemistry, history, and others, all learning was put under the general heading of philosophy – the love of wisdom. In our day, philosophy has come to designate areas of scholarship and contemplation that deal with reflective questions with no definitive answers: “What is the meaning of life?” “Is there a God?” “What does it mean to be morally right?” “How do I know what is real?” “What is the best means of governing a society?” All of these questions are philosophical because they require us to reflect upon both the question and the questioner. In this course, students will be introduced to fundamental philosophical questions and a broad spectrum of thinkers and writers in ethics, metaphysics, ‘philosophies of life’, epistemology, and political philosophy - all major areas of philosophy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This course is being offered for the first time since Winter 2008. As of November 2023, the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer (BCCAT) shows previous transfer agreements have expired. This is a widely taught course, so students can expect to receive credit for this course, either as 3cr of 100-level Philosophy or an equivalent specific course. Renewal of transfer agreements is a continuous process, so this agreement may be updated during the Winter 2024 semester. See <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

With conscientious application in PHIL 111, students will:

- develop an understanding and appreciation of enduring questions in the major areas of philosophy;
- recognize historical trends and orientations in philosophy;
- engage in an active, lively, and thought-provoking dialogue with others, oneself, and the great thinkers of the past and present; and
- learn to think critically about enduring philosophical issues.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

The course will involve a mixture of lectures and classroom group discussion on pre- assigned material.

ASSESSMENTS

Participation

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to read materials according to the schedule (see below) and actively participate in (online) group discussions (including via Moodle). Each section of the course on Moodle includes online group discussion forums where students are encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on the assigned material, raise questions, and discuss key concepts with the class. Specific topics may be assigned for group discussion as well. Sending thoughts and questions via email to the instructor can also contribute to your participation grade.

Assignments

Students will be assessed on the basis of in-class quizzes (5 in total), short written assignments (5 in total), one final exam as well as active participation in group discussions. The dates and deadlines for quizzes and assignments can be found (in red ink) in the course and reading schedule at the end of this course outline.

NOTE: *Late assignments will be penalized by **5% per day to a maximum of 3 days**, after which they will not be accepted unless there is a legitimate excuse approved by the instructor in advance of the deadline.*

Workload

This course will involve 3 hours of in-class lectures and classroom discussions each week. In addition to lectures, it is expected that this course will require 3-5 hours each week of homework and additional reading. *Students are expected to have read the assigned materials in advance and actively participate in classroom and online group discussions.* It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

In class quizzes	25%
Written assignments	35%
Participation	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Main textbook: ***Introduction to Philosophy***, by Nathan Smith (available on Moodle). Selected readings and materials (e.g., podcasts, videos) will be made available online (Moodle). See Reading Schedule below.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or

temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

Note: The schedule is subject to revision. All readings are available on Moodle.

Date/Week	Topic	Preparation/Reading, etc.
Jan. 3-7/Week 1	Course introduction and overview	No readings
Jan. 8-14/Week 2	Introduction to Philosophy	Smith Ch. 1, s. 1.1-1.3 (pp. 7-32; 36-38)
Jan. 15-21/Week 3	The Emergence of Classical Philosophy	Smith Ch. 4, pp. 107-134
Jan. 22	In Class Quiz #1	
Jan. 22-28/Week 4	Metaphysics	Smith Ch. 6, s. 6.1-6.2 (pp. 171-187)
Jan. 28	Written Assignment # 1	Due: Sunday, January 28
Jan. 29-Feb.4/Week 5	Metaphysics	Smith Ch. 6, s. 6.3-6.4 (pp. 187-198)
Feb. 5	In Class Quiz #2	
Feb. 5-11/Week 6	Epistemology	Smith Ch. 7, s. 7.1-7.3 (pp. 203-220)
Feb. 11	Written Assignment # 2	Due: Sunday, February 11
Feb. 12-18/Week 7	Epistemology	Smith Ch. 7, s. 7.4-7.5 (pp. 220-232)
Feb. 19-25/Week 8	READING WEEK	No Classes
Feb. 26	In Class Quiz #3	
Feb. 26-Mar.3/Week 9	Ethics	Smith Ch. 8, s.8.1-8.2 (pp. 237-244; 262-264) Smith Ch. 9, s. 9.1-9.2 (pp. 269-277)
Mar. 3	Written Assignment # 3	Due: Sunday, March 3
Mar. 4-10/Week 10	Ethics	Smith Ch. 9, s. 9.3-9.6 (pp. 277-301)
Mar. 11	In Class Quiz #4	

Mar.11-17/Week 11	Political Philosophy	Smith Ch. 11, pp. 341-368
Mar. 17	Written Assignment # 4	Due: Sunday, March 17
Mar. 18-24/Week 12	Philosophies of Life	Smith Ch 8, s. 8.4 (pp. 250-255; 262-264); Ch. 12, s. 12.3 & s. 12.5 (pp. 382-386; pp. 390-399)
Mar. 25	In Class Quiz #5	
Mar.25-Mar.31/Week 13	Philosophies of Life	Sartre, Existentialism as a Humanism (Excerpt)
Mar. 31	Written Assignment # 5	Due: Sunday, March 31
Apr. 1-7/Week 14	Review (if needed)	
Apr. 1	EASTER MONDAY	No class
Apr. 12/Week 15	FINAL EXAM	

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about the course, please contact me at mcameron@yukonu.ca