



PHILOSOPHY 1300E (570)
Introductory Philosophy
Fall/Winter 2022 - 2023

Instructor: Georgia Mouroutsou
Email: gmourout@uwo.ca

Course Information

Class Times: Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM (SA151)

Calendar Description: A survey of selected philosophical problems, with reference to both classical and contemporary philosophers. Specimen topics include: the mind/body problem, the existence of God, perception and matter, freedom and determinism. Primarily for first-year students.

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s): Philosophy 1100E.

Extra Information: 3 hours

Course Weight: 1.00

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: PHILOSOP

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course, or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Students are expected to adhere to all COVID-19-related protocols as per King's policy and public health directives (e.g. regarding vaccinations and masking) as they are updated. Information on COVID-19 protocols is available here <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/covid-19/>

PHILOSOPHY 1300E 570

Course Description: In this course we will experience philosophy as proposing many different ways of well-being, and appreciate how much it pays off in our life to be mindful.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Test Oct. 26: 15%
- Mid-term Exam (Nov. 30): 25%
- Paper = 30%. Due February 15, 2022
- Exam Final (March 8, 2022): 30%

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: Philosophy 1000E, 1250F/G, 1100E, 1350F/G.

General Information

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Georgia Mouroutsou, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy.

COURSE NATURE: Philosophy 1300E is a full two-semester course. The first part is taught in fall semester and the second in winter semester.

CLASS HOURS: Philosophy 1300E will be taught on Wednesday from 8:30 till 11:10 am in room SA. The class will begin on September 14 and will end on Tuesday, December 7. It will resume on January 11, and end on March 29, 2023 (see schedule for details).

IMPORTANT: THE FIRST SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE DUE TO A PENDING CONSULTATION THAT TAKES PLACE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. SEE OWL FOR DETAILS.

OFFICE HOURS: My regular office hours will take place virtually on Wed 12:15-1:00 pm.

Office: DL 238. Telephone number: 519-433-3491, ext. 4541. Prefer communication by email: gmourout@uwo.ca

Best way of communication is per email.

READINGS: The students are responsible for bringing the required texts to the class each time: the required books or the scanned texts. The latter will be provided on our OWL site, which the students are responsible for printing and bringing to the class.

I. ASSIGNMENTS:

A. One writing assignment of 3000 words (30%)

And so I turn to the essay, since this is an essay class. By the middle of the first term, I will have proposed some topics for the essay. It is highly recommended that you chat with me about the topic you wish to choose before you work on it. In this way I can adjust it to your interests. Or, I could find something that would be more appropriate for you, in the case you have a personal interest you wish to write about. **There will be one session devoted to academic writing (philosophy essays) in the second term and we will have gradually made very important steps in learning how to write academic papers by then.**

- **All papers** must be submitted to the assignment box of Dr. Mouroutsou's OWL site, and **the hard copy handed in in the class, February 15, 2020**. Any paper that is not turned into turnitin.com will not be given a grade. You are responsible to make sure it is done. Keep a safe copy of your text.
- You must use **at least three bibliographical references in your paper other than primary texts**. To refer to secondary literature does not mean to quote a couple of lines from books, but to constructively engage with their authors' views.
- **NO Internet sources**—you can use Internet search engines like **jstor** for your work.
- Plagiarism: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)." (Senate Statement on Plagiarism)
- **Late assignments will be penalized, 5% per day.**
- **NO extensions** will be granted that have not been approved and recommended by the Academic Dean's office.

It is highly recommended that you participate in **student reading and writing groups**, or/and go to the **Write Place** at King's, in order to get assistance with writing. Only by exercising and receiving continuous feedback, our writing can improve. **Content and structure** of the essay will be graded. **Grammar, syntax and spelling** are of importance as well. **On the one hand**, students must show that they understand the philosophers and their theses of relevance for the topic, **on the other hand**, they must make clear what their own view is. It does not have to be an original view, but the argumentation must be clear and solid. The essay of this course will amount to **30% of the final grade**.

B. Exams:

There will be

- a test on **Oct. 26 (15% of the final grade)** and

- a mid-term examination on **Nov. 30 (25% of the final grade)**, on the material covered so far from September onwards).
- **The final examination** will take place on **March 15 (3 hs)**, and will concern the entire material of the one-year course until then (worth of **30%** of the final grade).

Attendance is not graded but necessary for passing and conducive to thriving.

Only medical reasons will be accepted for absence in classes and exams, which must have been communicated in advance (see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). In case one student misses the final exam for medical reasons, and only in this case, he or she will write the make-up test, which normally takes place on Fridays 1:30-4:30.

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class will be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct.

II. BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE (the rest of the texts we read will be scanned):

1. Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, translated by G.M.A. Grube, Hackett, Indianapolis Cambridge 2001, ISBN-10: 0872205541, ISBN-13: 978-0872205543, CDN\$ 6.51.
2. Plato's *Republic*, translated by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett, Indianapolis Cambridge 2004, ISBN-10: 0872207366, ISBN-13: 978-0872207363, CDN\$9.45.
3. Epictetus, *The Handbook*, translated by N.P. White, Hackett, Indianapolis Cambridge 1983, ISBN-10: 0915145693, ISBN-13: 978-0915145690, CDN\$ 6.50.
4. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy: In Which the Existence of God and the Distinction of the Soul from the Body Are Demonstrated*, Hackett, Indianapolis Cambridge 2003, ISBN-10: 0872201929, ISBN-13: 978-0872201927, CDN\$ 9.12.

The above prices are the prices at amazon.ca. The books have been ordered at the UWO bookstore. You can also order them through amazon (for students no shipping costs, free two-day shipping for university students; slightly cheaper than at our university bookstore). As you prefer.

The rest of the scanned texts (to be found on our OWL site) must be printed for the class, for which the students are responsible.

III. Course Content and Goals

This class is **introductory**. It aims to introduce students into philosophy, who have little or no experience of philosophy. This class is a **history of philosophy** class. Most of the philosophers we will be reading have understood philosophy as a kind of therapy, a therapy of an illness they have diagnosed and thought we should cure. According to some, philosophy is the cure of ignorance, for others the cure of fear, or the passions of the soul, or skepticism. Along these lines, some others thought that philosophy must correct fundamental errors that predecessors committed.

Objectives of this class:

- to make the students **familiar with the thought and arguments from philosophers belonging to different philosophical directions and schools.**
- To help them **acquire knowledge of the history of philosophy**
- And develop **their critical reasoning**. The students will be asked to apply what they learn, *whenever possible*, to their everyday life.
- While studying the philosophical works, students will become acquainted with **notions and theories like empiricism, rationalism, idealism, skepticism, utilitarianism and deontology.**

IV. Schedule FT and WT (subject to small changes):

Fall term

Sept. 14

i. Introduction to the Course. Assignments and mutual Expectations. *Philosophy. History of Philosophy*. What is Philosophy? Diagnoses of different diseases and therapies.

ii. **Plato's *Apology* and Plato's *Euthyphro***

Key concepts and topics: Socrates' defense. Philosophy and sophistry (Protagoras as one example of a sophist); human and divine wisdom; examination of life.

Sept. 21

Plato's *Apology* (continuing) and *Euthyphro*.

The examining Socrates in action (*Euthyphro*).

Sept. 28

Class cancelled

Oct. 5

Plato's *Symposium*, Diotima's Ladder and Alcibiades' speech (see OWL site)

Key concepts and topics: Love, Philosophy as Love for knowledge: nature of this knowledge; ascent from the sensible beauty to the intelligible beauty. Plato's theory of forms. Alcibiades' description of Socrates. Why is Socrates so strange? Philosophy and education.

Oct. 12:

Plato's *Republic* VII. Book

Key concepts and topics: Philosophy as education and the philosopher's education: path and objects of knowledge: theory *and* praxis vs. Socrates' intellectualism.

Oct. 19:

Aristotle I: From the best human life to its model: **Aristotle's *Protrepticus*:** Why should we do philosophy? What's the use of it? **(to be scanned and provided in our OWL site).**

Oct. 26

Test (15%)

Nov. 2: FALL STUDY WEEK no class

Nov. 9

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* X6-9 (to be scanned and provided in our OWL site).

Key concepts and topics: two forms of happy lives: theory and praxis; primacy of the theoretical life; the philosopher's godlikeness.

Nov. 16

Epicurus' Letter to *Meneceus*' (see our OWL site).

Key notions and topics: Philosophy as therapy; the fourfold remedy. The proper attitude towards death and pleasure.

Nov. 23

The Stoic therapy: **Epictetus, *The Handbook*.**

Key notions and topics: the distinction between what is up to us and what is not. The model of the sage and the model of the philosopher/ Socrates.

Nov. 30. Our Mid-term exam

Dec. 7

Sextus Empiricus from Bk. 1 of his *Outlines of Scepticism* (see our OWL site)

Key Notions and Topics: The Sceptic Therapy: the nature and development of scepticism. Kinds and Modes of Scepticism. Philosophy and Scepticism. Philosophy as Scepticism.

Winter Term:

Jan. 4 NO CLASS (due to a conference paper)

Jan. 11

Plotinus *Ennead I6 On Beauty* (see our OWL site)

Key notions and topics: Philosophy as Return to Plato, and Return to ourselves. Who are the opponents in this text? Which are the arguments against them?

Jan. 18

Academic Writing. Writing Philosophy Essays.

Jan. 25

St. Augustine, from his *Against Academics* (see our OWL site)

Key notions and topics: Against what kinds of skepticism does Augustine turn and with what arguments? Platonism and Scepticism.

Feb. 1:

Introduction into modern times. Science and Philosophy. **Descartes' *Meditations*.**

Key Notions and Topics: Rationalism. First Philosophy (What does it mean *here*?) Critique of Tradition. *Discourse on Method*. Application of Scepticism. Mind-and-Body Dualism. Res cogitans and res extensa. God's role in Descartes' universe.

Feb. 8

Descartes Continued

Feb. 15

Submission of the essay: electronic submission and a hard copy in the class

Kant's Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals

Introducing Kant: three models of ethics: virtue ethics, Utilitarian ethics, deontological ethics. Key notions and topics: Metaphysics and Ethics. The three systems of ethics. The principle of utility, the law of nature; categorical imperative. Moral action and freedom of will.

Feb. 22

Winter Reading week. No Class.

March 1

Kant, continued.

March 8

Nietzsche's second *Untimely Meditation on the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* (see OWL)

Key notions and Topics: Philosophy and History; How to Carry Our Past (as individuals, as nations, as cultures). Different attitudes to our past. Historical and Unhistorical. The criterion of what is useful. "Past is past", or, can we change the past, and if so, how?

March 15

FINAL EXAM 30% of the final grade
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March 22

Merleau-Ponty's *Cezanne's Doubt* (to be scanned and provided on our OWL site)

Key Notions and Topics: Philosophy and Arts (painting). Critique of Descartes: Vision is not a mode of thinking. Cezanne's painting. Question: Are we fully determined, or free?

March 29

B. Russell. What is Philosophy

April 5

Class Cancelled due to paper abroad



Course Outline Policies Fall-Winter 2022

1. Accommodation, Illness Reporting, and Academic Considerations

1a. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessibility, Counseling, and Student Development at King's (at Western, Accessible Education) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

1b. Academic Consideration for Student Absence / Missed Assessments

Note that Self-Reported Absences have been discontinued by Western and affiliates as of August 31, 2022.

For assessments worth less than 10% of overall course grade, students should contact their instructors for consideration.

For work totalling 10% or more of the overall course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling Office of a student's Faculty of Registration) as soon as possible.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling Office of a student's Faculty of Registration).

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

1c. Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Dean's Office (or Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration) as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

1d. Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

2. Support Services

- Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College
- <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>
- Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>
- Mental Health@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/
- Academic Support Services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>
- University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

- <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/gender-based-violence-disclosure-process/>
- Students can connect with King's Campus and Community Social Worker (Emily Carrothers): <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/campus-and-community-social-worker/>
- See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices – such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones – can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment,

students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright re: Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course website they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

8. Remembrance Day Policy

Two minutes of silence observed on November 11 at 11 am throughout the university and that, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence be observed between 11 am and 12 noon. Students are permitted to be absent from class to attend Remembrance Day Services, provided the instructor is informed in advance of the intended absence.

9. Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Moving Online

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.