



Philosophy 2241G (570)
COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY II
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: R. Duvernoy
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course explores central philosophical questions from a cross-cultural perspective. Students will learn about non-Western traditions and how they compare to the European tradition. Topics will include: the nature of the self, ethics, aesthetics, and metaphysical questions concerning the nature of life, our environment, and being.

Prerequisite(s): Philosophy 2240F/G.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: PHILOSOP

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

King's University College
Department of Philosophy
PHILOSOPHY 2241G: Comparative Philosophy II: Philosophy of Time

MODE OF INSTRUCTION: In-person

Instructor: Russell Duvernoy, PhD

Contact Information: rduverno@uwo.ca

Office Hours: *Office hours information can be found on OWL Brightspace*

PREREQUISITES: Philosophy 2240F/G.

ANTIREQUISITES: None.

DESCRIPTION: Though we all experience time, it remains difficult to explain or understand. To quote Augustine, "If no one asks me, I know what time is, but if I want to explain it to someone who asks, I do not know." This comparative philosophy course focuses on time as its central theme. We will consider how time has been conceived and theorized across different world philosophical traditions from the West, the East (including East Asian and Indian) and Indigenous (including Anishinaabeg). Topics include the metaphysics and physics of time, the phenomenological experience of time, cultural images of time, time and place, and time and memory. Authors include Carlo Rovelli, Aquinas, Plato, Henri Bergson, Nagarjuna, Dōgen Zenji, Nishida Kitarō, William James, Viola Cordova, Kyle Whyte, Dan Wildcat, Vine Deloria Jr., and others.

This course has four objectives:

1. Introduce students to traditional issues in the philosophy of time, including the relation between past, present, and future and the ontological status of future and past, and the distinction between substantialist and relational conceptions of time.
2. Help students become more reflective about the relationship and connections between metaphysical interpretation, scientific theory, and religious or spiritual practice.
3. Introduce students to convergences and differences in the philosophy of time between broadly Western, Eastern, and Indigenous philosophical conceptions.
4. Help develop students' critical and analytical skills, especially in reading, assessing and constructing arguments.

REQUIREMENTS: Assessment for the course consists of: three in class quizzes (3 x 15% = 45%); one reflective writing assignment (20%); in person Final Essay Exam (25%) and Participation and Attendance (PAS) (10%). Brief descriptions below, full details for all assignments on Brightspace.

In Class Quizzes (3 x 15%= 45%): The course has three written quizzes that occur at the beginning of class and focus primarily on the reading assignment for that day. The format typically involves one or two short answer questions. Quizzes are open book and open note, but they are closed screen. No digital devices are allowed. *Quizzes are formally unannounced, though I will*

sometimes provide hints letting you know when to expect a quiz. Students can make up one missed quiz without formal excuse or documentation. After that, they will need formal documentation explaining the absence in order to make up the quiz.

Reflective Writing Assignment (20%): Students will write an original paper of roughly five to seven pages organized around a thesis and due the final week of class (April 9th at midnight). Further details to be posted on Brightspace.

Final Exam (in person) (25%): Students will be given themes and topics before the exam to prepare. They will then write the exam in person during the final exam period. Themes cover the entire course. Further details to be posted on Brightspace. Final Exam date TBA.

Participation and Attendance (PAS) (10%): A critical part of this class is contributing to a collegial intellectual community through discussion and listening. While class sessions will involve some lecture, the practice of philosophy is also vitally concerned with listening and sharing ideas between classmates.

Rubric for final PAS grade: Students are granted **one** unexcused absence, after that the following rubric applies:

100-90: 0 missed classes/ active participation

85-90: 1 missed class / active participation

85-80: 1 missed class / infrequent participation

80-75: 2 missed classes/ active participation

75-70: 2 missed classes / infrequent participation

70-65: 3 missed classes / active participation

65-60: 3 missed classes/ infrequent participation

60-55: 4 missed classes

50-55: 5 missed classes

50-40: 6-8 missed classes

More than eight missed classes will result in a zero for the PAS grade.

Note on Excused Absences: If students face unavoidable conflicts creating problems for attendance, **they should contact me as soon as possible to discuss.** Absences will *not* be

excused retroactively. In general, absences are excused only in case of unavoidable conflicts or illness.

Note on CHATGPT, Reading, and Writing: ChatGPT and similar AI-based online tools pose challenges for ethical usage in the service of learning. These tools become problematic when they are used as replacements for the work of reading and writing, which are fundamental to the process of philosophical education. For this reason, all writing assignments must be the students' original work and use of ChatGPT or similar online AI tools to generate papers is the equivalent of plagiarism. ***If I suspect a written assignment is not a student's original work, the assignment will receive a zero and students will be asked to meet with me individually.***

METHOD: This course meets in person once a week for three hours. Session will include a combination of text-based lecture, close reading, and discussion. *Attendance is essential for student success and students are expected to attend and participate.*

This semester begins on Jan. 6, 2026 and continues until April 30, 2026, honouring all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies (<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>).

TEXTS: All readings for the course will be on Brightspace, with the exception of the required text listed below and available for purchase at the Western University bookstore.

Rovelli, Carlo. *The Order of Time*. ISBN 978-0-7352-1611-2.

Estimated Cost: 20\$

READING SCHEDULE: The following reading schedule may change depending on student interests and class discussions. Readings are to be completed *before* the class session for which they are listed.

Week One: TH Jan 8: Mysteries of Time and Introduction to Course Methodology

Reading: selections from Carlo Rovelli, *The Order of Time*

Week Two: TH Jan 15: Time and Eternity, ONE

Readings: Plato, selections from *Timaeus*

Aquinas "Eternity and Time" (5 pages)

Week Three: TH Jan 22: Time and Eternity, TWO

Readings: Dogen, "Genjokoan", "The Time-Being"

selections from Nishitani, *Religion and Nothingness*

Week Four: TH Jan 29: Time and Change, ONE

Readings: Aristotle, selections from *Physics*

Nagarjuna, selections from *The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way*

Week Five: TH Feb 5: Time and Change, TWO

Readings: Nagarjuna, cont.

selections from Carlo Rovelli, *The Order of Time*

Week Six: TH Feb 12: Images of Time

Readings: "Time as Kinship" Kyle Whyte (17 pages)

Viola Cordova, "Time and the Universe" (3 pgs)

Reading Week Feb. 14-22

Week Seven: TH Feb 26: Time and Experience

Reading: William James "The Perception of Time" (37 pgs)

Viola Cordova, "Time, Culture, and Self" (5 pgs)

Week Eight: TH Mar 5: Time and Memory

Readings: selections from Aristotle, *On Memory*

Bergson, "Concerning the Nature of Time" (14 pages)

Additional Reading TBA

Week Nine: TH Mar 12: Time and Memory

Readings: Henri Bergson, "The Persistence of the Past" (12 pages)

Selections from Carlo Rovelli, *The Order of Time*

Week Ten: TH Mar 19: Time and Place

Readings: Dan Wildcat, "Indigenizing the Future" (25 pgs)

Selections from Vine Deloria Jr.

Aaron Mills, selections from "What is a Treaty?"

Week Eleven: TH Mar 26: Time, Place, Art

Readings: TBA, likely from Eduoard Glissant

Week Twelve: TH April 2: Time and Science, Redux

Readings: Selections from Carlo Rovelli, *The Order of Time*

Week Thirteen: TH April 9: Conclusion

Readings: Final Readings TBA

Reflection Paper Due TH April 9 by midnight

April 12 to April 30: Final Exam Period

FINAL EXAM date to be determined by Registrar.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college 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, or 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).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

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-supportservices/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@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:
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

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/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safecampus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

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. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

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

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammarchecking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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 of 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. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post 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 and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

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.