



PHILOSOPHY 1300E (570)
Introductory Philosophy
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: J. Killoran

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Course Information

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 (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.

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY/KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at Western University**

**Philosophy 1300E/570
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

INSTRUCTOR: JOHN B. KILLORAN, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Thursday 5:30 P.M.—6:30 P.M. or by appointment.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to philosophy, particularly for first-year students. Emphasis will be placed on questions that highlight philosophy as the study of wisdom such as: What is the purpose of life? What is knowledge? What is the origin of things? The course will examine philosophical wisdom in four phases: (i) its beginnings in ancient Greece, especially in the thought of Plato; (ii) its appropriation by such Christian thinkers as St. Augustine, St. Anselm, and St. Thomas Aquinas; (iii) its decline in the early modern period commencing with Descartes and culminating in Hume and Kant; and (iv) the consequences of this decline for the pursuit of wisdom today.

GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes.

KNOWLEDGE:

What Should Students Know:

- To understand the positions and arguments of each of the philosophers studied in the course

SKILLS:

What Should Students Do:

- To demonstrate a grasp of philosophical method in and outside of the classroom.
- To argue effectively for philosophical positions.
- To write essays which are stylistically and grammatically correct.
- To express ideas clearly and concisely.

ATTITUDES:

What Students Should Value:

- To participate in philosophical discussions in a civil and non-coercive manner, respecting others even though disagreeing with their ideas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Fall Semester

- (1) Minor In-Class Exam, Thursday, Oct. 29.
- (2) Major In-Class Exam, Thursday, Dec. 3.

Winter Semester

- (1) Major In-Class Exam, Thursday, Feb. 11.
- (2) Minor In-Class Exam, Thursday, March 11.
- (3) Final exam (Held on a date in April to be set by the University).

ALLOTMENT OF MARKS

Two Major In-Class Exams: 20% each X 2 = 40%

Two Minor In-Class Exams: 15% each X 2 = 30%

Final Exam: 30% = 30%

REQUIRED TEXTS

Plato, *Great Dialogues of Plato*. Translated by W.H.D. Rouse. New York: Signet Classics, 2008. (\$10.95)

St. Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will*. Translated by Thomas Williams. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co., 1993. (\$25.36)

St. Augustine, *Confessions*. Translated by R.S. Pine Coffin. London: Penguin Classics, 1961. (\$13.50)

Handouts for Aristotle, Plotinus, St. Anselm (selections from the *Proslogion*), St. Thomas Aquinas (Selections from the *Summa Theologiae*), William of Ockham & Nicholas of Cusa.

Ariew, Roger and Watkins, Eric (eds.). *Readings in Modern Philosophy Vol. 1: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 2000. (\$11.65)

Ariew, Roger and Watkins, Eric (eds.). *Readings in Modern Philosophy Vol. 2: Locke, Berkeley, Hume*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 2001. (\$19.17) Handouts for Hobbes & Pascal.

Handouts from Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky.

Lewis, C. S. *The Abolition of Man*. (Available at www.archive.org/free).

St. John-Paul II, *Faith and Reason* (Available at www.vatican.ca/free).

The paperback books may be purchased at the U.W.O. Bookstore. As well, you may be able to purchase the texts at the Used Book Store. N.B. All handouts are free courtesy of your generous instructor.

Introduction

Classical Philosophy: Ancient Wisdom.

Readings from the Pre-Socratics (Handout), Plato (*Apology*, *Crito*, *Phaedo*, *Symposium*, *Meno*, and *Republic*), Aristotle (handout) & Plotinus (handout).

Medieval Philosophy: Christian Wisdom.

Readings from St. Augustine (*Confessions* & *Freedom of the Will*), St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas, William of Ockham, & Nicholas of Cusa (handouts).

Early Modern Philosophy: The New Science and the Old Wisdom

Readings from Descartes (*Discourse on Method* [Parts I, II & V], *Meditations* [Synopsis, 1 & 2]), Spinoza (*Ethics* [Part I, Part II Preface-P.12, P.31-49 & Part V]), Hobbes *Leviathan* (IV:46), Pascal (*Thoughts/selections*), Locke (*Essay Concerning Human Understanding* [Book II, Chaps. 1-9, 11-12, 23,27]) Berkeley (*Principles of Human Knowledge* [Preface & Introduction, #s 1-33, 68-96, 135-156]), Hume *Enquiry on Human Understanding* ([Secs. 2-5,7,10 & *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* [Parts I-III]).

Modernity and Beyond: The Eclipse of Wisdom

Readings from Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky (handouts), C.S. Lewis (*The Abolition of Man*), St. John-Paul II (*Faith & Reason*).

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS - FALL TERM

Week	Reading Assignment
1. Sept. 10:	Class Business. Introductory Lecture.
2. Sept. 17:	Presocratics (handout).
3. Sept. 24:	Plato , <i>Apology</i> , <i>Crito</i> & <i>Phaedo</i> .
4. Oct. 1:	Plato , <i>Meno</i> (optional) & <i>Republic</i> Books I-III.
5. Oct. 8:	Plato , <i>Republic</i> , Books IV-VII.
	Fall Reading Week—Oct. 12—Oct.16
6. Oct. 22:	Plato , <i>Republic</i> , Books VIII-X & <i>Symposium</i> (optional).
7. Oct. 29:	MINOR IN-CLASS EXAM!
8. Nov. 5:	Aristotle & Ancient Cosmology/Plotinus (handouts).
9. Nov. 12:	Augustine , <i>On Free Choice of the Will</i> .
10. Nov. 19:	Augustine , <i>Confessions</i> Books I-III.
11. Nov. 26:	Augustine , <i>Confessions</i> , Books IV --VI.
12. Dec: 3:	MAJOR IN-CLASS EXAM!

End of Fall Term Classes – December 9, 2026

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS - WINTER TERM

Week	Reading Assignment
1. Jan. 7:	Augustine , <i>Confessions</i> , Books VII—X; XI-XIII (optional).
2. Jan. 14:	Medieval Philosophy I: Anselm & Aquinas (handouts).

3. Jan. 21: **Medieval Philosophy II: William of Ockham & Nicholas of Cusa** (handouts).
4. Jan. 28: **Descartes**, *Discourse on Method*, I,II,& V;*Meditations*,Synopsis,1 & 2.
5. Feb. 4: **Spinoza**, *Ethics*, Part I, Part II Preface-P.12,. P.31-49, & Part V/ **Pascal** (handout). **Hobbes** (handout).
6. Feb. 11: **MAJOR IN-CLASS EXAM!**
Winter Reading Week—Feb.13-Feb.21.
7. Feb. 25: **Locke**, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book II, Chaps. 1-9, 11-12, 23, 27; **Berkeley**, *Principles of Human Knowledge*, Preface & 1- 33, (68-96, 135-156, optional).
8. Mar. 4: **Hume**, *Enquiry*, Secs. 2-5,7,10 & *Dialogues* Parts I-III (optional).
9. Mar. 11: **MINOR IN-CLASS EXAM;**
10. Mar. 18: **Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach, & Nietzsche** (handouts).
11. Mar. 25: **Dostoyevsky**, *The Grand Inquisitor*; **Lewis**, *The Abolition of Man*.
12. Apr. 1: **St. John-Paul II**, *Faith & Reason/ Final Exam Review.*

End of Classes: April 6, 2027.

Exam Period: April 12--30, 2027. **3 HOUR FINAL EXAM / TBA.**

Assignments

Instructions on how to prepare and write assignments will be provided early in September.

Assignments must be submitted in print and electronically. The submission is not complete until the instructor has received the assignment in both formats.

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Five percent will be deducted from the percentage grade for each calendar day late

Students must keep for their records a printed copy of each of their assignments. In the event an assignment is misplaced, he or she will be required to submit this copy to the instructor.

Exams

A student who fails to write an exam must approach the instructor and explain why he or she was not present at the exam. Depending upon the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may be granted. If that is not possible, the term grade may be re-weighted. If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University or King's.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

N.B. Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help

Course Prerequisites and Antirequisites

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.” **Senate Policy**

Plagiarism

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage 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.” Please refer to Scholastic Discipline under the Senate Policy on Academic rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>.

“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 will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (link to Turnitin.com website: <http://www.turnitin.com>.)”

AI

The use of AI is not permitted in the composition of essay assignments.

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this assessment.
- If instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs. (For example, if students need to submit X of Y assignments, this flexibility already provides consideration.)
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

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

Western’s Mental Health Services site provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

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

You can reach supports at King's 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.