



PHILOSOPHY 1300E (571)
Introductory Philosophy
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: G. Mouroutsou

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Course Information

Calendar Description:

An introductory course into great philosophers. We will study and debate conceptions of philosophy as remedy for maladies of the soul, like ignorance and passions, in ancient times or particular attitudes and theories, like skepticism and utilitarianism, in modern times. How are those concepts useful for us today?

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.

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REQUIREMENTS:

- **Test: 15%**
- **Mid-term Exam: 25%**
- **Paper = 30% (10% abstract/intro and 20% writing it in class)**
- **Exam Final: 30%**

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: None.

General Information

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

COURSE NATURE: A full two-semester course. The first part is taught in fall semester and the second in winter semester. We begin on **September 15, 2026** and end the FT on **Dec 8**. We begin the WT on **Jan 5** and end the course on **Apr 6**.

Best way of communication is per email.

Office hour will take place after class. Stay with me after class.

READINGS: Required books and scanned texts. See below.

I. ASSIGNMENTS:

A. One writing assignment/essay in class 30% with the abstract/intro 10% and the writing in class 20%

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. **We will discuss all details at the end of the year and the beginning of the next one for this assignment in March.**

- **All abstracts/intros** must be submitted to the assignment box of Dr.

Mouroutsou's OWL site, and **the hard copy handed in in the class on March 9.**

- You must use **one bibliographical reference in your paper other than primary texts.** Constructively engage with their authors' views, do not merely report them.
- **Late abstracts will not be accepted/graded.**
- **NO extensions** will be granted that have not been approved and recommended by the Academic Dean's office.

The abstract/intro and essay of this course will amount to **30% of the final grade.**

NEW: Academic consideration for the mid-term and the essay requires submission of a formal documentation. In case of academic consideration without formal documentation, one will write the make-up (for the first test).

B. Tests/Exams:

There will be

- a test (**15% of the final grade, Oct 20**) and
- a mid-term examination (**25% of the final grade**, on the material covered so far from September until the mid-term, **Nov 10**).
- **The final examination** (worth of **30% of the final grade**, see registrar's schedule please).

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

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. Goals

The objectives of this class are the following:

- to make the students **familiar with the thought and arguments from philosophers belonging to a diversity of philosophical directions and schools under the perspective of therapy.**
- To help them **acquire knowledge of the history of philosophy** by reading, understanding and challenging classical authorities.
- To help them develop **their critical reasoning** by applying what they learn, *whenever possible*, to their everyday life.
- While studying the philosophical works, students will become acquainted with **notions and theories like materialism, empiricism, rationalism, idealism, skepticism, utilitarianism and deontology.**
- To invite the students to think and discuss **why such a perspective** (the one of therapy) **is especially helpful for us today in the here and now, and appreciate the role of philosophy and philosophers in applying that perspective.**

IV. Schedule Fall Term and Winter Term:

Fall term:

15.9. Intro. The goals and the scope of the course. Expectations and Assignments.

22.9. Plato's *Apology*

Socrates' defense. Philosophy and sophistry; human and divine wisdom;

examination of life; THE NOTION OF THERAPY OF THE SOUL.

29.9. Plato's *Euthyphro*

The examining Socrates in action (*Euthyphro*).

SOCRATES' DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF DOUBLE IGNORANCE

6.10. Plato's *Republic* VII. Book

PLATO'S PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION

13.10. Thanksgiving/ STUDY WEEK. No class.

20.10. Test 15%

27.10 Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (BKS 1, 2-4 AND 10.6-9)

THE POSSIBILITY FOR HUMAN HAPPINESS: ARISTOTELIAN VIRTUE AND THE MODERATION OF PASSIONS

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

PHILOSOPHY AS CURE OF FEAR; the fourfold remedy. The proper attitude towards death and pleasure.

10.11: MID-TERM EXAM 25%

17.11: Epictetus, *The Handbook*.

THE STOIC THERAPY: ERADICATION OF PASSIONS.

The distinction between what is up to us and what is not.

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

THE SCEPTIC THERAPY: THE EMERGENCE OF TRANQUILITY. The nature and

development of scepticism. Philosophy and Scepticism. Philosophy as Scepticism.

1.12. Watching a film together. TBD

8.12. Discussion of the film. Prep for Writing assignment/essay in class.

Winter Term:

5.1. Academic Writing. Writing Philosophy Essays.

12.1. Introduction into modern times. Descartes' *Meditations*.

Rationalism vs Empiricism. Application and THERAPY OF SCEPTICISM. Mind-and- Body Dualism. Res cogitans and res extensa.

19.1. No class due to conferencing

26.1. Descartes Continued

2.2. Kant's *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Three models of ethics: virtue ethics, Utilitarian ethics, deontological ethics.
KANT's CRITIQUE OF UTILITARIANISM: his categorical imperative and the nature of moral action.

9.2. Kant, continued.

16.2: reading week WT, No class/ no office hr.

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

Philosophy and History; How Should We Carry Our Past (as individuals, as nations, as cultures)? Different attitudes toward our past and THE THERAPEUTIC ROLE OF PLASTICITY.

2.3. Nietzsche continued.

Submission of the abstract/intro of the paper/writing assignment before class 10%
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9.3. Writing assignment in class 20%

16.3 Merleau-Ponty (*Cezanne's Doubt*, see OWL)

Critique of Descartes' Model of Philosophy. Philosophy and Arts. Cezanne's Model.

23.3. no class due to conferencing (material will be offered through the OWL)

30.3. Ludwig Wittgenstein (from his *Philosophical Investigations*, see OWL)

The analytic turn. An analytic proposal of philosophical therapy (of metaphysics). Critique of the notion of language in his late phase. Family resemblances instead of philosophical generalisations. Language games.

6.4. Bertrand Russell. His essay 'What is Philosophy' (see OWL). REVIEW

Discussion and Review of the Course/Prep for the final-exam success

**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.