

Phil. 100 (003): Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2008, M 7:00-9:50
Room: ML 246

Professor: Gerry Callaghan

Office: HH 366

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-4:00, Wednesdays 2:30-3:15, or by appointment.

Communication:

*Please note that email is the **preferred** method of communication if and when you cannot see me in person.*

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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the discipline of philosophy by examining a variety of traditional issues in metaphysics (theory of reality) and epistemology (theory of knowledge). Topics in metaphysics will include the question of God's existence, individuation and personal identity, the relation between the mind and the body, and the free-will/determinism debate. Topics in epistemology will include the problem of skepticism, the debate between rationalism and empiricism, our knowledge of the external world, the problem of induction and the nature of scientific reasoning. In both classroom discussions and written assignments, students will be encouraged to react critically to the reading material and to formulate their own arguments for supporting or opposing the views of the particular philosophers in focus.

Text: *Philosophy for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Reader*, Edited by Steven Cahn, (Oxford: OUP, 2003)

Please note that copies may be available at the Used Bookstore (Student Life Centre, basement) as well as at the main UW Bookstore (South Campus Hall).

Requirements:

(Note: A Detailed schedule of readings and due dates for assignments and will be distributed in the first week of class.)

First Paper (2-3 pages, double-spaced), 15% of final grade

Mid-term test, 20% of final grade

Second paper (approx. 4 pages, double-spaced), 25% of final grade

Final Exam (to be held during examination period), 40% of final grade

Late Policy: Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per weekday late. There will be no exceptions without a documented excuse of sufficient weight (e.g. a medical emergency).

In addition to the written work outlined above, students are expected to attend all classes and to prepare for class discussion by reading the assigned texts *prior to* the session in which they are covered.

See overleaf

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.