

Great Works of Western Philosophy Part I

PHIL 250A (Section 001) COURSE OUTLINE

University of Waterloo, Department of Philosophy, Fall 2011

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Course Info: Web: Via UW-ACE | Lectures: 7-9:30pm, Mon, RCH 206
| Office hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:00pm

1. Course Description

We will explore and analyse what some of the greatest ancient and medieval philosophers have said about some big questions, such as: What is philosophy? How does learning take place and what are the foundations of knowledge? What's up with death and immortality? What are the universe, causation, teleology, human nature and activity, pleasure, creation and time like? Does God exist, and if so, what is God like? How do faith and reason interact?

2. Class Format

Each week will include lecture and discussion on the main points of the assigned readings. My lectures will also situate the readings in their historical and philosophical contexts. Students are encouraged to react critically to the ideas in the reading material and to offer their own arguments supporting or opposing those of the authors considered.

3. Required Text

Classics of Western Philosophy, ed. by S. Cahn (Hackett, 2006), 7th edition – ISBN-13: 978-0-87220-859-9. Available in the UW Bookstore. You can likely find used copies in the Used Book Store in the Student Life Centre.

Those who do not want to buy the text can find most, if not all, of these texts online, and I will make some recommendations about internet sources. Be aware that using alternative sources will make it more challenging to locate the passages for reading and in-class discussion.

4. Course Requirements & Evaluation

	Topic	Due Date	Weighting
Reflective Journal Entries	Selected themes from lectures	T.B.A.	20% (8 x 2.5%)
Mid-term exam (in class)	1 st half of the course (Ancient)	Oct 31 st	25%
6-page paper	Key theme in Ancient or Medieval	Dec 5 th	30%
Take-Home Final Exam	2 nd half of the course (Medieval)	Dec 15 th	25%

* Due dates for journal entries will be announced in class and due in class. You will be reflecting on the readings before we discuss them in class, in part to help you to get the readings done.

** I plan to make essay/exam guidelines available two weeks before the due date, and to mark and return your work within two weeks at most.

5. Class Schedule (Tentative):

Week	Topic(s)	Readings
(1) Sept 12	General Intro; Greek culture, myth, rise of philosophy The figure of Socrates; Religion, ethics, and philosophy	<i>Euthyphro</i> , pp. 20-28
(2) Sept 19	Nature of philosophy, knowledge, and learning Death and Immortality Nature of the Soul (Psychology)	<i>Meno</i> , pp. 3-19 <i>Phaedo</i> , pp. 49-81
(3) Sept 26	Justice and Virtue Ethics Nature of Forms & Reality (Ontology and Epistemology)	<i>The Republic</i> , pp. 113-163
(4) Oct 3	Aristotle's systematizing of thought and reality	<i>Categories</i> , pp. 180-183 <i>Posterior Analytics</i> , pp. 190-96
(5) Oct 10	* Thanksgiving Day - No Lectures *	
(6) Oct 17	Aristotle on nature, causality, teleology, natural sciences Aristotle on First Philosophy	<i>Physics</i> , pp. 200-204; 207-208 <i>Metaphysics</i> , (Bk. I, pp. 228-230; Bk. VII, pp. 233-241
(7) Oct 24	Aristotle's <i>Metaphysics</i> continued	<i>Metaphysics</i> , (Bk. XII, pp. 251-252 (ch 14,15); 257-259.
(8) Oct 31	{MID-TERM EXAM - IN CLASS} Hellenistic Philosophy - Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism (<i>readings recommended, not required</i>)	<i>Letter...</i> pp. 315-317; <i>The Principal Doctrines</i> , pp. 318-320; <i>Encheiridion</i> , pp. 323-336
(9) Nov 7	Background of Christianity Plotinus and Neo-Platonism Augustine on free will and evil	<i>Enneads</i> IV, 8, pp. 388-399 <i>On Free Choice...</i> , pp. 357-372
(10) Nov 14	Augustine's view on faith and reason, creation and time Anselm's Ontological Argument	<i>Confessions</i> , pp. 373-385 <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 413-433
(11) Nov 21	Bonaventure - The Mind's Road to God	<i>Itinerarium Mentis ad Deum</i> , available online (see ACE site)
(12) Nov 28	Aquinas on Faith and Reason, Theology and Philosophy, and the Existence of God	<i>Summa Theologiae</i> , pp. 442-461
(13) Dec 5	{ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS} Ockham and the road to Modernity	<i>Summa Logicae</i> , pp. 475-481

* Note that readings from the text may be supplemented with selections from other sources. In that case, the instructor will provide links to the relevant readings via UW-ACE.

- UW-ACE:** It will be very important to pay attention to the UW-ACE site for this course. I will be posting announcements, lecture notes, and other material on the site.
- Attendance:** Students are expected to prepare for and attend class regularly. Students should consult the instructor with any problems / concerns about the course **early** in the semester.

8. **Laptops and Phones:** Laptops may be used in class, but only for taking notes. Please sit at the back of the room to avoid distracting others. Texting on cell phones is not allowed during class.
9. **Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests:** It is entirely your responsibility to ensure that you complete all course requirements by the relevant due dates. The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations (www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:
- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.
 - If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
 - The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
 - Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.
10. **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. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

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, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

11. **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.