

Philosophy 250B Great Works: Modern
Winter 2012, M 7-9:50, HH 1108

Professor: Shannon Dea

Office: HH 329

Office hours: Mon. 1:15-2:15, or by appointment, or by chance.

Course website: is on Desire to Learn (henceforth "Learn"), accessible via www.uwaterloo.ca

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to some of the great works of modern philosophy, and thereby to a number of central debates within European philosophy circa 1600-1900.

While the main focus of these texts is metaphysics and epistemology, some attention will also be paid to political philosophy.

Expected course outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following things:

Course content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → name some key thinkers in the history of modern philosophy and accurately restate some of their core arguments; → describe the influence of these figures upon one another; → explain key concepts such as <i>substance</i>, <i>attribute</i>, <i>idea</i> and <i>apperception</i>;
Applying your knowledge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → critically evaluate key arguments from modern philosophy; → discuss and debate issues, arguments, texts and figures from modern philosophy with peers in small groups and in full class discussions;
Reading and writing in the discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → read and accurately exposit primary philosophical source texts from the modern period and relevant secondary literature about these texts; → write careful, focused, well-organized philosophical prose about individual texts and issues.

Course Methods:

- This course involves a great deal of sometimes difficult reading. Students should expect to read, on average, around 20 pages per week of primary source texts in preparation for class. They should also bring their textbooks to class because we will sometimes engage together in close reading of key passages.
- Students are likewise expected to participate in class discussions of course material. Some of these discussions will occur in the context of small group work; some will occur with the whole class. Participating in discussion means not only speaking but listening. Hence, students should take care to turn their phones off, logout of Facebook and listen to each other without interrupting.

- The course also involves a lot of writing and a lot of different kinds of writing:
 - At the beginning of each class, students will be given 5 minutes to jot down their notes about that week’s reading. The professor will keep these notes and return them to students at the final exam.
 - Students will also complete five “mini replies” online over the course of the term. These short questionnaires will give students the opportunity to engage in critical reflection about five of the course readings.
 - Weekly single question quizzes will help students to review course materials and hone their short answer writing skills.
 - Other, more common, writing activities in the course include the midterm test (5 short answer questions selected from a list of 8), two short essays (assignments to be posted on Learn), and a final exam (10 short answer questions selected from a list of 15, and one essay question from a list of three to be given to students at the last meeting of the term).

The professor will hold an essay writing boot camp (date and location TBA) to help students develop their philosophical writing skills.

Texts:

- (Required) Steven M. Cahn, Ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy*. Seventh Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2006.
- (Recommended) Joanne Buckley, Ed. *Checkmate Guide to Research and Documentation*. Scarborough: Nelson, 2008.
- Additional readings will be posted on Learn. See “Schedule” below for details.

Work required:

Weekly reading notes	No grade
“Philbucks”	5%
Five “mini replies”	5%
The weekly question	10%
Short paper (3 pages)	10%
Mid-term test (in-class)	15%
Term paper (5 pages)	25%
Final exam	30%

The fine print:

Weekly reading notes: Students will be given five minutes at the beginning of each class to jot down any notes they wish to make about that week’s reading. They will turn these notes in to the professor, who will keep them and then return them to their authors at the beginning of the final exam. Thus, students who have done their readings on time and who attend class regularly and punctually will have considerable material available to assist them as they write their final exams.

Philbucks: Phil 250B students can earn up to 5% in “Philbucks” based on their contributions to class discussion. I will award Philbucks to students who participate in group discussions – whether by simply asking a question, stating a view, or arguing for a position. At the end of the term, these Philbucks can be redeemed for up to 5% in bonus

marks (.5% for each Philbuck earned/maximum of one Philbuck per class). Questions about course “housekeeping” – i.e., office hours, test details, etc. do not count as contributions to discussion. To earn Philbucks, you must participate in philosophical discussions about the readings, films, and/or lecture material. But don’t be scared – you don’t need to be “deep” or to say the “right thing.” You just need to weigh in.

“Mini replies”: Over the course of the term, each student must complete five “mini replies” about five separate readings. Each of these is worth 1%. You either get the grade or you don’t – no half marks. Using the form provided on Learn, indicate which reading you’re replying to, and then briefly answer the following three questions about the reading: (1) What is the main argument of the reading? (2) What do you like best about the point the author is making (or the author’s approach to making that point)? (3) What do you find most frustrating/confusing/objectionable about this reading? There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. However, the answers must make specific reference to the reading in question. That is, it is not enough to say that you really like the writer’s style. You need to be specific about what in particular about his/her style you like. Mini reply papers are due 7 p.m. on the day for which that reading is assigned. Students may reply to any five readings they wish over the course of the term.

The Weekly Question: Every week, there will be a short (approx. 5 minutes) exercise in which students answer a single question on material from the previous week’s reading/lecture. Each question is worth 1% of the final grade. Only your top ten grades on The Weekly Question count toward your final mark (That is – you get two “get out of jail free” cards.) There are no make-up opportunities available for the weekly question. The weekly questions will be administered at different times each week. This way, there is some incentive for students to arrive on time and to stay until the end of class. Students who are absent one week are strongly advised to catch up any readings/notes they missed in time to write the following week’s Weekly Question. Otherwise, they risk losing two marks for a single absence.

Papers: Papers must be submitted electronically via Learn by the beginning of the lecture on the date they are due. Any assignment submitted once the lecture has commenced will be considered one day late. Late essays are subject to a penalty of 5% per business day. Students must appropriately acknowledge sources for their papers, and must avoid plagiarism, including uncited close paraphrases of sources. For more details on standards of academic honesty in this course, see the assignments and supporting materials on the Learn site for the course.

Final Exam: The final examination will occur during the scheduled April examination period at a date/time/location to be announced. Accommodations for deferred final exams are made only under specific conditions and time restrictions. **Requests for accommodation based on religious holidays must be submitted to the Associate Dean** as soon as the conflict becomes apparent; in any case, no later than one week following the publication of the final exam schedule. It is the student’s responsibility to make him/herself available for the entire examination period, and **travel plans are not a sufficient reason to have a final exam deferred** (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

Weather: In case of inclement weather, check the UW website for closures. If the university is open, class is on. If there is inclement weather on the day of the midterm

and the university is open, the test proceeds as planned. The weather will not count as legitimate grounds for your having missed the test. If the university closes on the date of the midterm, the test will occur next class.

Learn Site and Email: The professor will post details concerning tests, review sessions and assignments on the course Learn site. It is the individual student's responsibility to check this on a regular basis. From time to time, the professor will send students important emails regarding (for instance) readings, assignments, review sessions and tests (or -- if they should arise -- last minute emergencies that affect a scheduled lecture). If you would rather receive these emails at your home account (e.g., hotmail, gmail, rogers...), then you must enter that email address on your WatIAM entry. To log on to WatIAM and update your entry, follow this link:

<https://watiam.uwaterloo.ca/idm/user/login.jsp>. Log in and then click "Update Profile." Then, select the "Email configuration" tab. It is your responsibility to stay current with course news by regularly checking whichever email account is listed on your WatIAM entry.

Special arrangements request form:

If circumstances in your life pose an obstacle to your getting your work in on time, you may complete a special arrangements request form (available on the Learn site for the course) to propose an alternative arrangement. This form must be submitted 48 hours before the due date for the work. Submitting the form doesn't guarantee that your proposed special arrangement will be approved. However, the professor will give all requests serious consideration. Special arrangements requests received after this 48 hour cut-off will not be considered without medical or similar documentation.

Schedule

Students are responsible for doing the assigned readings before the corresponding lectures. Lectures are intended to supplement, problematize and clarify the readings, not to replace them. Any material from course readings could be covered on the examinations, whether it has been specifically discussed in the lectures or not.

University dates	Week	Date	Readings/ Assignments/ Tests
Sept. 3 – lectures begin	1	Jan. 9	Supplementary readings: Galileo and Bacon (posted on Learn)
Jan. 16 – open class enrolment ends	2	Jan. 16	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> 1, 2 and 6: 490-96, 509-16
Jan. 23 – last day to drop a course with 100% refund and no penalty	3	Jan. 23	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> Part 1, Chs. 13-15 and Part 2, Ch. 17: 534-48

Petition to the Registrar to Register Late form required to become fees arranged after Jan. 31.	4	Jan. 30	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> Part 1 (including Appendix): 551-70
	5	Feb. 6	Leibniz, <i>Monadology</i> : 619-26 Short paper due
	6	Feb. 13	Locke, <i>Essay</i> Book 1, Ch.1; Book 2, Chs. 1-8, 23, 27: 630-40, 653-62
Feb. 21 – last day for 50% tuition refund	READING WEEK – Feb. 20-24		
	7	Feb. 27	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> : 700-14 Midterm test
	8	March 5	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> Sections 2-7: 767-792.
March 12 – drop period 1 ends. Last day to drop with a grade of WD	9	March 12	Kant, <i>Critique</i> Preface and Introduction: 905-27
	10	March 19	Kant, <i>Critique</i> Transcendental Aesthetic: 928-40
	11	March 26	Wollstonecraft (posted on Learn)
April 2 – lectures end. April 6 – drop period 2 ends – last chance to drop without a petition. April 9-21 – final exams.	12	April 2	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> : 1023-37 Term paper due

More fine print:

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

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, 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 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>

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>

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>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

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.

Verification of illness: Students who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor within 48 hours by submitting a completed UW Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. Students in distance education courses must also provide confirmation of the illness but submit it to the Distance Education Office. The UW Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available on line at: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.

Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion; doctors' notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable. Health Services charges a \$10 fee for completing the University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form, which is not covered by OHIP/UHIP. Fees for this service levied by off-campus practitioners are the student's responsibility.

NOTE: This syllabus subject to change, with notice. The version of the syllabus posted on Learn will be the most up-to-date one available and will always constitute the official version.