

St. Jerome's in the University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy
PHIL 100J section 001
Introduction to Philosophy
Course Outline
Winter 2019

Lecture Times: Tu Th 1:00-2:20

Professor: S. Gregoire

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Email policy: Use emails for administrative purposes only and not to ask about course content. For example, before a test, you may email me to set up an appointment but not to ask a question about the material.

Office hours: Tu th 11:30-12:15, or by appointment

Course Description/Learning Objectives:

Since this is an introduction to philosophy, the central questions we will reflect upon in this course are: What is philosophy? What is it about and what are its goals? How does it proceed? What is a philosopher? A number of different answers to these questions will be presented, but we will examine chiefly those of the Ancient Greek Philosophers, studying some of what they said about the nature and methods of philosophy, and some of what they left us in terms of philosophical conclusions.

Classes will consist of a presentation of the material by the professor on the issues to be considered, accompanied by discussion periods. You will be notified in advance of the texts to be discussed, and you will be responsible for doing the reading assignments prior to the class session. I emphasize that class attendance is critical for good performance in this course

Here is the order in which topics will be covered. The determination of a period of time devoted to each is tentative only, for it varies a lot depending on particular groups.

Weeks 1-6: Part I General Considerations

Definition of philosophy, its division, its methods (natural mode of knowledge; logic; particular methods), historical survey

Selection of readings from Pieper's *Leisure the Basis of Culture* and *The Philosophical Act*; Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, *Parts of Animals*; Thomas Aquinas' Commentaries on the *Metaphysics*, the *Posterior Analytics* and the *Nicomachean Ethics*

Weeks 7-10: Part II Examination of a problem in Ethics: The Nature of Human Happiness

Selection of readings from Plato's *Apology of Socrates*; Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*; Aquinas' Commentary on the *Nicomachean Ethics*

Weeks 10-13: Part III Examination of a problem in Natural Philosophy: The Nature of Motion

Selection of readings from the Pre-Socratics; Guthrie's *The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle*; Aristotle's *Physics*; Thomas Aquinas' Commentary on the *Physics*

Marking Scheme

There will be five in-class examinations (January 29; February 7; February 28; March 19; April 4). These tests will each be worth 8%, 8%, 24%, 35% and 25% of your final grade. They will consist of multiple-choice, true or false, short answer questions and essay questions. They will be cumulative and will cover the lecture material and the reading material. We will go over the correct answers in class. You must absolutely attend the class and write the test in the section in which you are officially enrolled.

As for missed tests, I am forewarning you that I will be following very strictly the UW policy. That means that if you are prevented from writing a test because of sickness, a medical certificate must be presented and must provide all of the information requested by the "University of Waterloo Verification of Illness" form or it will not be accepted. It is better for all parties involved that you take good note of this at the beginning of the term. Also, note that elective arrangements (such as travel plans), heavy workload, hobby commitments, family and part time jobs obligations, etc, are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time. I will make no exceptions. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/examination-regulations-and-related-matters>. All make-up midterm exams and quizzes will be offered on the first Friday following the exam, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, in room STJ 3012.

Required Texts and Readings:

You will be provided in class and on UW LEARN with documents entitled 'Guidelines for Study' which are more or less detailed lists of the main questions raised in the lectures. These are to help you to take and to structure your course notes. You will also be provided with a number of handouts. You must obtain at the UW bookstore: 1) the courseware book 2) *Leisure, The Basis of Culture*, by Josef Pieper

Important Information:

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Academic Integrity Office (UW): A resource for students and instructors

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 Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline.

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. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances). For more information, students should contact the Associate Dean of St. Jerome’s University.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline or University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, read University of Waterloo Policy 72 (Student Appeals).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, 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 AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.