



# Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Karen Brown!  
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Office: Clearihue Hall B 314  
Office Hours: T&W 11:35 am—12:05 pm in person  
Th 8:00 am—8:50 am on Zoom

## Description

The aim of this course is to get you involved in the activity of philosophy. We will spend our time thinking about some of life's big questions, working to understand how some great thinkers have tried to answer them and critically examining our own answers to them. What is the nature of reality? Is it something we can have knowledge of? Does God exist? Can we justify our beliefs? What are minds? What is consciousness? What makes something morally right or wrong? How ought we to live? What (if anything) makes it true that you are the same person today that you were yesterday? Do human beings have free will? What makes a life meaningful? Is life absurd?

We will approach all of these questions philosophically. That means we will remain open to reason, articulating the questions and the answers as clearly and carefully as we can and critically assessing the answers we have with an eye to finding more satisfying responses.

## Texts

You will need these books:

Stephen Stich and Tom Donaldson. .  
Oxford University Press. 2019. Available through the UVic Bookstore and through RedShelf ([redshelf.com](https://redshelf.com)).

Anthony Falikowski and Susan Mills. Experiencing Philosophy. Second Edition. Broadview Press. 2023. Available through the UVic Bookstore and through RedShelf ([redshelf.com](https://redshelf.com)).

John Perry.



# Introduction to Philosophy

## Submitting Writing Assignments"

Your writing assignments must be submitted on-line through Brightspace. Specific instructions and times submissions are due are posted on Brightspace along with the detailed descriptions of the assignments."

Unexcused late submissions will immediately lose 5% and will lose an additional 5% every 24 hours. If you are submitting your assignment late and the lateness was unavoidable, let me know so that we can waive the late penalty."

## Quizzes

These will be be timed multiple choice, short answer and fill in the blank quizzes that you will take on Brightspace. Each quiz will be available on Brightspace only during our regular class time on the dates indicated in the schedule below. We will not have a class meeting on quiz days. "

Information about what to expect on individual quizzes will be posted on Brightspace. If you miss a quiz due to illness or exceptional circumstance contact me immediately to schedule a make-up quiz.

## Grading

Grades for the course will be assigned using the UVIC Undergraduate Grading Scale:"

Percentage	Grade
90 - 100	A+
85 - 89	A
80 - 84	A-
77 - 79	B+
73 - 76	B
70 - 72	B-
65 - 69	C+
60 - 64	C
50 - 59	D
Below 50	N or F

A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ o%ers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations."

B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates good comprehension of the course material, good command of the skills needed to work with it, and full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application."

C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities."

D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree."

N indicates that the course requirements were not completed."

## Academic Integrity"

The University Policy on Academic Integrity (covering plagiarism, multiple submission, unauthorized use of an editor, falsifying materials, cheating and aiding others to cheat) will be enforced in this course. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the policy. You can find it online in the UVIC Calendar at <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/>

If you have any doubts about what this policy requires or any questions about whether or not you are complying with it, please don't hesitate to ask me about it."



# Introduction to Philosophy

Searching for the Self

F 10/4!      Perry



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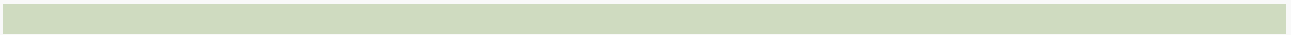
Reading



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" " Hume



" Introduction to Free Will

Writing Assignment 7: *Is it All Pseudoscience?* due 8pm!

" " Dennett *Please Don't Feed the Bugbears*

" " Dennett *Making Reason Practical, Control and Self-Control*

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	"	Tolstoy from
"	"	Schopenhauer <i>On The Vanity of Existence</i>
"	"	! Camus from !
		EP 3.2 <i>Existentialism: Born Free, Let Me Be</i>
		Nagel <i>The Absurd</i>
!		EP 3.3 <i>The Meaning of Life</i>
"	"	Wolf <i>Happiness and Meaning</i> , Section II <i>Meaning in Life</i> , recommended
		!
"		Workshop for Writing Assignment 10: <i>The Question</i>
"	"	Wallace <i>This is Water!</i>
"	"	Russell <i>The Value of Philosophy</i>
"	"	Writing Assignment 10: <i>Face the Question</i> due 8pm !
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For all other course information see the course outline from the fall semester, available on Brightspace.