

PHILOSOPHY 100

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor:	Dr J.O. Young
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Telephone:	250.721.7509
Location:	Clearihue A127
Time:	Mondays and Thursday, 1:00-2:20
Office Hours:	Monday and Thursday, 2:30-4:00 and by appointment

If you are unable to attend office hours in person, contact the instructor to arrange a Zoom meeting.

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The Instructor:

I was interested in philosophy from an early age. Even as a student at Burnaby North High School, I was reading (though not understanding) philosophers, including Plato. I knew going into university that I wanted to study philosophy. (This is very unusual; most students come to university to study.) After receiving my B.A. at Simon Fraser University, I completed an M.A. at the University of Waterloo in Ontario and a Ph.D. at Boston University. I taught for a year at the University of Calgary before coming to the University of Victoria. I was also a research fellow for a year at Melbourne University in Australia. I have been a visiting scholar at the Universidad de Murcia (Spain) and a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Durham University (England).

My initial area

and this was the subject of my first book, *Global Anti-realism* (1995). I have subsequently written several books on philosophy of art including *Art and Knowledge* (2001) and *Cultural Appropriation and the Arts* (2008) *Critique of Pure Music* (2014), *Filosofía de la Música. Respuestas a Peter Kivy* (2017), *Radically Rethinking Copyright in the Arts* (2020) and *A History of Western Philosophy of Music* (2023). I have edited three collections of essays, translated *The Fine Arts Reduced to a Single Principle* (2015) and (with my colleague Margaret Cameron) Jean-Baptist Du Bos *Critical Reflections on Poetry and Painting* (2021). Another translation, of Anne Dacier's *Of the Causes of the Corruption of Taste* is forthcoming. I

have published more than 70 papers in scholarly journals. I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2015 and won the 2022 David Turpin Gold Medal for Career Achievement in Research.

I am passionate about philosophy and I hope to convey some of my passion to you.

Here are some places the readings may be found:

Plato, *Euthyphro*, <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>

Plato, *Crito*, <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html>

Plato, *Phaedo*, <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1658>

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/004780373.0001.000/1:3.2?rgn=div2;view=fulltext>

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, <http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/descartes>

Descartes and Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, Correspondence

<http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/descartes>

(Just read the first five letters from 1643-44.)

Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*, <http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/leibniz>

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, <http://earlymoderntexts.com/authors/berkeley>

Hume, *Enquiries*, <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfs/hume1748.pdf>

Paley, *Natural Theology*, <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=A142&viewtype=text&pageseq=1>

Locke, *Essay*

You just need to read Chapter 5

Grading:

Students will write four essays of approximately 1500 words and a series of surprise quizzes. Two essays will be due before Christmas, and two in the second term. Students will write a total of fifteen surprise quizzes. The best ten grades on these quizzes will be used in the calculation of your final grade. Your ten best quizzes will be worth 20% of the course grade. Each of the four essays will be worth 20%. ***N.B.: In order to pass the course, students must submit all four essays and write at least eight quizzes. Otherwise, you will be assigned an N grade. If you are having trouble completing the essays, please see the instructor as soon as possible. If you miss a quiz due to circumstances beyond your control, contact the instructor to arrange to write a makeup quiz.***

Four criteria will be used in assessing essays: (1) effective and correct use of the English language; (2) accurate presentation of the views of the philosophers discussed; (3) presentation of valid arguments; and (4) evidence of original thought. A first-class essay will be characterised by clear, grammatical prose and careful exegesis. It will display an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments being discussed. It will state a thesis and present reasoned arguments for it. A first-class essay will also contain evidence of your own efforts grapple with philosophical issues and to arrive at your own solutions. Students are not expected to make startling philosophical discoveries, but they are expected to engage the issues. Students are strongly discouraged from making use of secondary sources. Their own reasoned reflections are more important than a survey of the extant literature.

Students will receive a final grade out of 100 points. Numbers will be converted to a letter grade in accordance with the following scale: 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; 0-

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Assignment: First essay due, 26 October

Week Eight 21 and 24 October

Topic: The rationalism of Leibniz
Readings: Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*

Week Nine 28 and 31 October

Topic: Berkeley introduced
Readings: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*

Week Ten 4 and 7 November

Topic:
Readings: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*

Week Eleven 14 November

Topic: Introduction to Hume
Readings: Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 1 to 3

Week Twelve 18 and 21 November

Topic: Hume on causality; scepticism
Readings: Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 4 to 7

Week Thirteen 25 and 28 November

Topic: Liberty, Necessity and Morality
Readings: *Enquiry* Sections 7 and 8

Week Fourteen 2 December

Topic: Miracles and a Future State
Readings: *Enquiry* Sections 10-12; Paley, *Natural Religion*, Chapters 1-3
Assignment: Second essay due, 6 December

Second Term

Week One 6 and 9 January

Topic: Identity and personal Identity
Readings: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, Ch. XXVII

Week Eleven

3 and 6 March