

**Philosophy 490 A03: Advanced Topics in Philosophy:
A Study of C.A. Campbell's *On Selfhood and Godhood***

**Winter Session 2016-2017: Second Term (Spring)
(CRN: 22426)**

General Course Information, Recommended Supplementary Reading, Schedule

1. General Course Information

Location & Time: CLE B315; 8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. :

The well-known twentieth-century philosopher Errol E. Harris once described the book we will be studying in this course, C. A. Campbell's *On Selfhood and Godhood*, as follows: "A major philosophical work, in which the author is prepared to discuss traditional problems like the ontological status of the self,

especially the essays also provide you with room to explore topics outside of the classroom confines. Roughly speaking, “B+” and “A-“ papers take account of and rise to the level of the class discussion; “A” and “A+” papers take that discussion to a higher/deeper level.

Criteria for evaluation: The criteria I use to evaluate essays are, I believe, criteria which common sense would suggest in the assessment of a philosophy essay. Primarily my concern is with content or substance. In indicating these evaluation criteria I emphasize that philosophy is an *arts* or *humanities* subject, which means that assessing the merits of a philosophy paper ultimately requires qualitative evaluation or judgment on my part. Therefore, I do not assign precise numerical values to the following assessment criteria; nor is there a mathematical formula I can employ to judge the quality of philosophical writing. However, as a rough guide I employ a list of relative priorities, presented here in ascending order of importance:

- spelling/grammar
- organization & clarity of expression
- accuracy of exposition
- use of examples reflecting understanding of the subject
- breadth of analysis, i.e. number of points covered
- depth of analysis, i.e. how far into the issue analysis is pushed
- resourcefulness, originality and imagination
- tightness, rigor or logical coherence of analysis
- overall degree of philosophical insight

I stress that the order of these criteria is not absolute. Thus, sometimes less important criteria will be given more weight than more important ones. For instance, a student’s use and analysis of examples might be so good that I am led to conclude that that student has an excellent understanding of the subject. In such a case the value I attach to the use of examples might increase significantly, and I might overlook the fact that, for instance, the student has failed to cover as many points as other students.

Academic Honesty: Cheating of *any* kind, including collusion (working with others too closely) and plagiarism from (i) books and/or articles, (ii) other students’ papers, and (iii) papers or other material on the internet, is a serious academic offence. University regulations also prohibit students from submitting the same work for two different courses; in other words, plagiarizing or “recycling” one’s own work is

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Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty unless justified by a medical or other academically legitimate reason, for which documentation of some kind (e.g., a medical certificate) will generally be required. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 5% per day (or part-day, including weekend days or part-days), for a maximum of 4 days (20%). After four days, no late assignments will be accepted.

OFFICE HOURS:

Because of demand (especially near test days or essay due-dates), if you wish to see me during my office hours you need to make an appointment. Appointments are limited to about fifteen minutes per student, so it's best to come prepared with specific questions.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND CLASS POLICIES:

(a) Class discussion & participation: In general, my classes tend to involve lots of discussion. I encourage and greatly value your in-class contributions, and I can assure you that other students do too. It is a frequently unacknowledged fact of the classroom that if you have a question or comment, it's likely that others have the same one too. So go ahead and ask your question, or make your comment: it helps me, you, and your classmates. And the more you talk, the less I talk, and surely that is a good thing! If, however, you are more shy or reserved but still have comments or questions, please either write me with your questions/comments or come see me during office hours.

(b) Emailing me: Because of problems with SPAM and viruses transmitted by email, I have to request that whenever you email me you make sure to put something in the "subject" line of your email to identify you as a student in this course. If you don't do this, and I don't recognize your name, I will delete your email without opening it. In addition to this, I would greatly appreciate it if you observed the (still) standard courtesy of beginning your emails with a salutation, e.g. "Dear ...", "Hello Dr. XX", etc. This piece of social etiquette is rooted in the recognition that people are not simply inanimate objects (like ATM machines), but should be addressed before being spoken to.

(c) Coming late to class: The classroom is a work environment, and it can be a distraction when people arrive walk in late. So please try to be on time.

(d) If a person not registered in this class wishes to attend a lecture to check it out, that person needs to receive prior permission.

(e) Use of computers & hand-held media/communication devices, etc., in the class: For the purpose of taking notes, you are welcome to use laptops with quiet keyboards in the classroom. Please do not attend to computers or hand held-devices for obviously or apparently non-academic purposes, e.g., watching films, surfing the web, texting, etc.

2. Some Recommended Background Reading

Bevan, Edwyn. *Symbolism and Belief*, London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1938.
Blanchard, Brand. *Reason and Analysis*.
Bradley, F. H. *Appearance and Reality*, chapter titled "Thought and Reality".
Clifford, Paul R. *Interpreting Human Experience*.
Ewing, A. C. *Idealism: A Critical Survey*, London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1934 (3rd edition, 1974).
Lewis, H. D. *The Elusive Self*.
Macquarrie, John. *Twentieth Century Religious Thought*.
Passmore, John. *100 Years of Philosophy*.
Price, H. H. "Clarity is Not Enough".

3. Class Schedule*

WEEK 1: (Jan. 5)

Thurs. Jan. 5 - Course Introduction: Biography of C. A. Campbell. Gifford Lectures.
- Religion: its hallmarks.

WEEK 2 (Jan. 9, 12)

Mon. Jan. 9 - Course Introduction. Idealism and twentieth century intellectual climate.
Thurs. Jan. 12 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.

WEEK 3 (Jan. 16, 19)

Mon. Jan. 16 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.
Thurs. Jan. 19 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.

WEEK 4 (Jan. 23, 26)

Mon. Jan. 23 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.
Thurs. Jan. 26 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.

WEEK 5 (Jan. 30, Feb. 2)

Mon. Jan. 30 - S & G, Lectures I – IV.
Thurs. Feb. 2 - **Mid-term Exam.**

WEEK 6 (Feb. 6, 9)

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