

## PHILOSOPHY 100

### Introduction to Philosophy

**Instructor:** Dr J.O. Young

**Office:** CLE B324

**Telephone:** 250.721.7509

**Office Hours:** Monday and Thursday, 2:30-4:00 and by appointment; Office hours will be held via

Zoom:

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/97463307203?pwd=NWRXM1hmNnN2U1dTZkdE dnM2ZmlEZz09>

[joy@uvic.ca](mailto:joy@uvic.ca)

#### ***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 philosophy after deciding that they don't like whatever they initially planned 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 of philosophical research was aimed at answering the question 'What is truth?' 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) and *Radically Rethinking Copyright in the Arts* (2020). I have edited three collections of essays, translated Charles Batteux's *The Fine Arts Reduced to a Single Principle* (2015) and

Wilfred Sellars' account of philosophy: "The aim of philosophy is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term."

More specifically, philosophy is the study of a series of enduring questions. In this course, we will ask fundamental questions about the nature of reality, value, beauty and knowledge. Students will be introduced to the principal problems and schools of the Western philosophical tradition. Issues in ethics, social and political philosophy, epistemology (theory of knowledge), metaphysics (theory of the basic nature of reality) and aesthetics (philosophy of art) will be addressed.

***Course objectives:***

Students will be asked to develop the abilities to write clear and logical arguments. The course will also address the following objectives:

Hume, 'Of the Immortality of the Soul,'

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

Readings: Plato, *Euthyphro*

Week Three                      20 and 23 September

Topic: The authority of the state

Readings: Plato, *Crito*

Week Four                      27 and 30 September

Topic: Is the soul immortal? (introduced)

Readings: Plato, *Phaedo*

Week Five                      4 and 7 October

Topic: Is the soul immortal? (continued)

Readings: Plato, *Phaedo*; Hume, 'Of the Immortality of the Soul'

Week Six                      14 October

Topic: Introduction to Descartes

Readings: Descartes, *Meditations 1 and 2*

Week Seven                      18 and 21 October

Topic: What can we know?

Readings: Descartes, *Meditations 3 and 4*

Assignment: First essay due, 21 October

Week Eight                      25 and 28 October

Topic: Does God exist? Are mind and body distinct?

Readings: *Meditations 5 and 6*; Elisabeth of Bohemia, Correspondence with Descartes

Week Nine                      1 and 4 November

Topic: The rationalism of Leibniz

Readings: Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*

Week Ten                      8 November

Topic: Leibniz continued; Berkeley introduced

Readings: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*

Week Eleven                      15 and 18 November

Topic: God and Science in Berkeley's thought  
Readings: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*

Week Twelve                      22 and 25 November

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

Week Thirteen                      29 November and 2 December

Topic: Hume on causality; scepticism  
Readings: Hume, *Enquiry*, Sections 4 to 7  
Assignment: Second essay due, 2 December

Week One                              6 January

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

Week Two                              10 and 13 January

Topic: Miracles and a Future State  
Readings: *Enquiry* Sections 10 and 11; Paley, *Natural Religion*

Week Three                            17 and 20 January

Topic: Scepticism  
Readings: *Enquiry*, Section 12

WRft3.3oou ;i/P ÅMCID 31W29 29 29 10 and Enqui Tf ( )Tj EMCID 31Won 122

