

PHIL 490/500 (A02) | Spring 2023
(Advanced) Topics in Philosophy: Hope and Despair
Mon & Thurs, 2:30-3:50, Human and Social Development, A250
CRN: 22586/22588

What is hope, and what can we justifiably hope for in our personal and political lives? This course explores contemporary philosophical literature on hope, despair, and related states . It surveys prominent accounts of the nature of hope, the rationality and morality of hope , and what it looks like to lose hope and struggle with despair . Throughout the course, students will apply their understanding of the nature and value of hope to a range of applied topics, such as the pursuit of social justice and hope's role in our global fight against climate change.

Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)

My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:00, and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.

You are welcome to visit me in office hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please feel free to email me to request an appointment (in person or by Zoom). I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours but note that I generally do not reply to emails on evenings or weekends. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronouns as well.

This course is in-person only

The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the student's responsibility to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.³ Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension. The University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor for your assignment without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper

Course schedule: Students will be notified of any changes on the course website and in class.

Welcome!	W1: Jan. 9	Introduction to the Course.
The Standard Account	W1: Jan. 12	R.S. Downie, "Hope" J.P. Day, "Hope"
Mental Imaging & Cognitive Resolve	W2: Jan. 16 W2: Jan. 19	Luc Bovens, "The Value of Hope" Philip Pettit, "Hope and its Place in Mind"
External Factor & Incorporation	W3: Jan. 23 W3: Jan. 26	Ariel Meirav, "The Nature of Hope" Adrienne M. Martin, "Incorporation"
The Perceptual Theory	W4: Jan. 30 W4: Feb. 2	Michael Milona and Katie Stockdale, "A Perceptual Theory of Hope" Michael Milona, "Finding Hope"
Evaluating Hope	W5: Feb. 6 W5: Feb. 9	Victoria McGeer, "The Art of Good Hope" Katie Stockdale, "The Value and Risks of Hope"
Optimism & Pessimism	W6: Feb. 13 W6: Feb. 16 W7: Feb. 20	Valerie Tiberius, "Optimism" Lisa Tessman, "Expecting Bad Luck"