

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE  
School of Arts & Science  
Humanities Department**

**Phil 100-04, Introduction to Philosophy  
Fall 2005**

**COURSE OUTLINE  
Monday/Wednesday Class**

**1. Instructor Information**

Instructor: Sandy Bannikoff  
Office hours:  
Location: office, Y320  
Phone: 370-3508  
e-mail: bannikof@camosun.bc.ca

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe fundamental philosophical problems, along with the classical philosophical answers to these problems.
2. Distinguish among various philosophical theories.
3. Identify key periods and concepts in the (philosophical) history of ideas.
4. Critically analyze an argument philosophically by identifying its premise and conclusion and by assessing its strengths and weaknesses

**3. Required Materials**

Texts:

1. Plato, Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo Translated by G.M.A. Grube, Hackett Publishing Company, 2002.
2. Descartes: Meditations and Other Metaphysical Writings Penguin Books, 2000.
3. Anthony Weston A Rulebook for Arguments Hackett Publishing Company, 2000.

**4. Course Content and Schedule**

**A. Lecture and Seminar Schedule**

**Week One**

**September 7** Administration and General Introduction

## **Week Two**

**September 12:** Ancient Greece, Roots of Western Philosophy

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Apology*, in Five Dialogues

**September 14:** Socrates

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter I "Composing a Short Argument"

## **Week Three**

**September 19:** Plato's *Apology*, Introduction to Plato's *Euthyphro*

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Euthyphro*, in Five Dialogues

**September 21:** Three definitions of 'holy'

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter II "Arguments by Example"

## **Week Four**

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Euthyphro*, in Five Dialogues

**September 26:** Content and structure

**September 28:** Main Argument in the *Euthyphro*

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter III, "Arguments by Analogy" and Chapter IV, "Arguments from Authority"

## **Week Five**

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Meno* in Five Dialogues, Read in sections indicated below.

**October 3:** Introduction to Plato's *Meno*

**October 5:** The question "What is Virtue?" (70a – 80e)

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Appendix, "Definition"

## **Week Six**

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Meno* in Five Dialogues

**October 10:** Thanksgiving Day

**October 12:** Theory of Recollection (81a – 86b)

## **Week Seven**

**Lecture Reading:** Plato's *Meno* in Five Dialogues

**October 17:** The question "Can Virtue be taught?" (86c – 100b)

**October 19:** Socrates and Plato on Virtue

**Seminar:** Review for Exam One

### **Week Eight**

**October 24: Plato Exam**

**Lecture Reading:** Descartes' *Meditations*, Introductory Material: Letter of Dedication, Preface to the Reader, Summary (pg. 8-17)

**October 26:** Introducing Descartes

### **Week Nine**

**Lecture Reading:** Descartes, *Meditations One and Two*

**October 31:** Meditation One, Methodological Doubt

**November 2:** Meditation Two, Self

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter V, "Arguments about Causes"

### **Week Ten**

**Lecture Reading:** Descartes, *Meditation Three and Four*

**November 7:** Meditation Three, God

**November 9:** Meditation Four, God

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter VI, "Deductive Arguments"

### **Week Eleven**

**Lecture Reading:** Descartes, *Meditations Five and Six*

**November 14:** Meditation Five, Math

**November 16:** Meditation Six, Earth

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter VII, A: "Exploring the Issue" and Chapter VIII, B: "Main Points of the Essay"

### **Week Twelve**

**Lecture Readings:** First Objections (a) (pg. 71) and Reply (a) (pg. 72-74);  
Descartes Correspondence with Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria, pg. 147—154)

**November 21:** Objections and Replies, deKater example

**November 23:** Princess Elizabeth

**Seminar Reading:** Weston, Chapter X, "Fallacies"

### **Week Thirteen**

**Lecture Readings:** Third Objections (pg. 87) and Reply (pg. 88-89); Fourth Objections (a) (pg. 89-90) and Reply (pg. 91-92)

**November 28:** Hobbes

**November 30:** Arnauld

**Seminar:** Review Short Deductive Arguments and More Fallacies

### **Week Fourteen**

**Lecture Reading:** Fifth Objections (b) (pg. 93-93) and Reply (b) (pg. 96)

**December 5:** Gassendi

**December 7:** Review for Final

**Seminar:** Quiz: Identifying Argument

### **5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

1. Plato Exam.....33%
2. Descartes Exam.....33%
3. Seminar Assignments.....33%

### **Exam Policy**

Contact me as soon as you are aware that you either will miss a test or have missed a test. My phone number and e-mail are on the first page of this outline. You must contact me absolutely no later than 2 weeks after the date that was missed. Make-ups will be permitted only in cases of confirmed illness or crisis and will be written during the final exam period.

### **6. Grading System**

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95–100%	B = 75-79%	D = 50-59%
A = 90-94%	B- = 70-74%	F = 0.0-49%
A- = 85-89%	C+ = 65-69%	
B+ = 80-84%	C = 60-64%	

### **7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed throughout the Course**

- A. Reading:** Reading philosophy requires very careful attention. Expect to read everything more than once. In fact, it is not unusual to read a piece of philosophy over and over again.

Always spend the time it takes to read carefully – which means looking up words in the dictionary, taking notes, etc. Try to not get behind: philosophy, generally speaking, cannot be crammed.