

PHL 100 Y1Y – Introduction to Philosophy

M6-9, W6-8, Sidney Smith Hall 1087

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to some of the fundamental questions of philosophy: What is good and bad, right and wrong? What is the nature of the self? Do we have free will? What is the nature and scope of our knowledge? Does God exist? In our examination of these questions, we will be reading texts from a number of philosophers, both historical and contemporary. But the goal of this course is not just to learn what and how these thinkers argued. By critically engaging with these texts and forming your own reasoned positions, you will also practice the skills involved in doing philosophy.

Required Text

The following textbook, which is available at the U of T Bookstore, will be required for the course:

Gendler, Tamar, Susanna Siegel, and Steven M. Cahn. *The Elements of Philosophy: Readings from Past and Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. (**Abbreviated as “EP”**)

Additional readings may be posted on Blackboard.

Schedule (F Term)

Week 1 (May 9 and 11) – Free Will, Part I

A. J. Ayer, *Freedom and Necessity* (EP 475-480)

Roderick M. Chisholm, *Human Freedom and the Self* (EP 480-488)

Week 2 (May 16 and 18) – Free Will, Part II

Topics for first essay available

Harry Frankfurt, *Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person* (EP 488-497)

Peter Strawson, *Freedom and Resentment* (EP 498-511)

Week 3 (May 25) – God’s Existence, Part I

No class on Monday

Saint Anselm, *The Ontological Argument* (EP 15-16)

Gaunilo, *In Behalf of the Fool* (EP 16-17)

Richard Taylor, *The Cosmological Argument* (EP 25-31)

Week 4 (May 30 and June 1) – God’s Existence, Part II

First essay due on Wednesday

Topics for second essay available

William Paley, *The Argument from Design* (EP 31-34)

Ernest Nagel, *Does God Exist?* (EP 34-39)

John Hick, *The Problem of Evil* (EP 39-44)

Steven M. Cahn, *The Problem of Goodness* (EP 44-47)

Week 5 (June 6 and 8) – Ethical Theories

John Stuart Mill, Selections from *Utilitarianism* (EP 77-88)

Immanuel Kant, Selections from *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (EP 105-111)

Week 6 (June 13 and 15) – Ethical Puzzles

Second essay due on Wednesday

Judith Jarvis Thomson, *The Trolley Problem* (EP 195-208)

Thomas Nagel, *Moral Luck* (EP 208-216)

Course Requirements

1. Tutorial attendance and participation, 15%
2. First Essay, 12.5 % (1000 words, due **June 1**)
3. Second Essay, 12.5% (1000 words, due **June 15**)
4. Third Essay, 12.5% (1000 words, **due July 15**)

5. Fourth Essay, 12.5% (1000 words, **due August 5**)

6. Exam, 35% (**in the final exam period**)

For the F term, you are only responsible for participating and attending tutorial, and writing two papers.

Tutorials

Each student must be enrolled in a tutorial section. There are two tutorial sections for this course:

T5101	W5	Sidney Smith Hall 562	TA: Charles Dalrymple-Fraser
T5201	W8	Sidney Smith Hall 562	TA: Charles Dalrymple-Fraser

Important Sessional Dates

May 9: Classes begin in F and Y section code courses

May 23: Victoria Day; University closed

June 17: Classes end in F section code courses

June 27: Classes begin in S section code courses and resume in Y section code courses

July 1: Canada Day; University closed

July 17: Last day to drop Y section code courses from academic record and GPA

August 1: Civic holiday; University closed

Course Policies

Academic Integrity (retrieved from <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai>). Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

You are expected to know what constitutes AI; familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's [*Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*](#). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T. Potential offences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- In papers and assignments:
- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.

- Submitting your own work, in part or whole, in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or **possessing** any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. *The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript.* If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar. You may find other useful resources at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/resources>.

Course Website. Lecture outlines, paper topics and other course documents will be posted to Blackboard. Please make sure to check it regularly.

Late Penalty. Unless accompanied by a medical note or letter from your registrar, late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day (including weekends and holidays), to a maximum of three days. Any work submitted after this point will receive a grade of 0.

Paper Submission. Please submit a hard copy of your paper in class.

Email. If you have a question about a formal matter pertaining to the course that is not answered by any course document, send me an email (using your official “utoronto.ca” email) and I will reply to it within 48 hours. However, if you have a philosophical question, please come see me during office hours.

Accessibility. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca