

Philosophy 1010Y (01) Winter 2012
Introduction to Philosophy
(Writing)
MWF 10:35-11:25
Hicks 212

Instructor: Dr. Michael Hymers
Telephone: 494-3548
e-mail: Michael.Hymers@Dal.Ca
Office: FASS 3129
Office Hours: MF 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment.

This course satisfies the university writing requirement. If you take this course, you may not take Philosophy 1000. Philosophy 1010Y (01) is the continuation of Philosophy 1010X (01), taught by Adam Auch. You may not switch to Philosophy 1010Y (02) or from 1010Y (02) into 1010Y (01). This half of the course will be an introduction to philosophy through science-fiction. We shall study short stories and one novel by such authors as Robert Heinlein and Ursula K. LeGuin and connect them through critical discussion to selected philosophical classics and contemporary works. Major topics will include: What can we know? What is the nature of mind? Is time travel to the past possible? Is the state justifiable?

Required Texts:

Philosophy 1010Y Reader–Coursepack available from Campus Copy, SUB.

René Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, trans. Donald A. Cress (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980).

Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Dispossessed* (New York: Eos, 2001).

Lewis Vaughn and Jill McIntosh, *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students* (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2009). (You should already have this from 1010X.)

Evaluation:

Three Essays, about 1500 words each–3 x 11.7% = 35%
April Exam in regular exam period 15%
(Don't book your flight home until you know when!)

Term-marks will be converted to letter-grades.

Approximate Grading Scale

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
/100	100-90	89-85	84-80	79-77	76-73	72-69	68-65	64-61	60-57	56-50	49-0

The Class:

There will be weekly reading-assignments. You should bring your text to class and be prepared to discuss the material covered.

Writing:

This is a writing-class, and part of its aim is to help you improve your written expression. To further that aim, most of the grade for this course will be based on essay-writing.

Late Work:

Late work will be penalized 5% per working day up to a maximum of seven days, after which it will not be accepted.

Plagiarism:

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://www.registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#I10>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations:

Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one's own.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence that may lead to the assignment of a failing grade, suspension or expulsion from the University. If a penalty results in a student no longer meeting the requirements of a degree that has been awarded, the University may rescind that degree.

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- failure to attribute authorship when using a broad spectrum of sources such as written or oral work, computer codes/programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images;
- downloading all or part of the work of another from the Internet and submitting as one's own; and
- the use of a paper prepared by any person other than the individual claiming to be the author.

The proper use of footnotes and other methods of acknowledgement vary from one field of study to another. Failure to cite sources as required in the particular field of study in the preparation of essays, term papers and dissertations or theses may, in some cases, be considered to be plagiarism.

Students who are in any doubt about how to acknowledge sources should discuss the matter in advance with the faculty members for whom they are preparing assignments. In many academic departments, written statements on matters of this kind are made available as a matter of routine or can be obtained on request. Students may also take advantage of resources available through the Writing Centre at writingcentre.dal.ca or the Dalhousie Libraries at library.dal.ca/services/infolit.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with severely in this course. "Severely" means severely. If I find evidence of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty on any of your papers, I am required by the University to report it to the Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, who may then refer the matter to the Senate Discipline Committee, and I will do so. If that happens, I will not be allowed to discuss the matter with you, and you will not receive a mark for the work in question until after the evidence has been reviewed by the AIO and, if deemed necessary, a hearing of the Committee, to which you will be invited and given the chance to respond to the allegations. These hearings are not pleasant, and almost every case from Philosophy 1010 that I have reported to the Committee has resulted in a penalty being applied to the student in question.

Year	Plagiarism Cases Reported in Philosophy 1010, Section 01		
	# of Cases Reported	# of Convictions	# of Acquittals
2001-2002	8	8	0
2002-2003	5	5	0
2003-2004	3	2	1
2005-2006	4	4	0
2006-2007	0!	0	0
2007-2008	4	4	0
2008-2009	3	3	0
2009-2010	10	9	1
Fall 2010	3	3	0

Don't become another statistic! If you are in doubt, cite.

For more information on citation, visit the Killam Library's website ...
 <<http://www.library.dal.ca/How/LibCasts/>>, and scroll down the page.

And read Vaughan and McIntosh, Chapter 6, "Using, Quoting, and Citing Sources."

OSAA Syllabus Statement on Accommodation:

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see <www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca> for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

Troubles?

If you are having problems with the course, please see me or a teaching assistant (the sooner, the better). If you need extra help with your writing, you can contact the Writing Centre in the Killam Library at 494-1963 or 494-3379 <<http://writingcentre.dal.ca/>>. A Study Skills Programme is offered by Academic Advising Services (Killam Library: 494-3077).

Tentative Schedule of Readings and Assignments
 (subject to revision)

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Jan. 4-6		Knowledge <u>Justified True Belief</u> When does someone know that something is the case?	<u>Sceptical Doubt</u> Could you be in the situation of Ballard's crew? <u>Reading:</u> Ballard, "Thirteen for Centaurus"
Jan. 9-13	<u>Sceptical Doubt</u> Can you know anything for certain? <u>Reading:</u> Descartes, Meditations I, II & III	<u>Answering the Sceptic: Idealism</u> Is the world a creation of your own mind?	<u>Answering the Sceptic: Simplicity</u> What is Russell's argument against idealism and scepticism? Is it sound? <u>Reading:</u> Russell, "The Existence of Matter"
Jan. 16-20	<u>Answering the Sceptic: Verification</u> What is Ayer's argument against scepticism? Is it sound? <u>Reading:</u> Ayer, "The Elimination of Metaphysics" <u>Avoiding the Sceptic</u>	<u>Answering the Sceptic: Reference</u> What is Putnam's argument against scepticism? Is it sound? <u>Reading:</u> Putnam, "Brains in a Vat"	<u>The Problem of Induction</u> Can Non-deductive Reasoning Be Justified? Russell, "On Induction"
Jan. 23-27	Essay #1	Mind and Body Could a machine think? <u>Reading:</u> Wilder, "Odd Man Search"	<u>Dualism: Three Arguments from Descartes</u> Why does Descartes think his mind is distinct from his body? Is he right? Does the ability to reason or use language require an immaterial soul? <u>Reading:</u> Descartes, Meditation VI; Descartes, Discourse on Method, 30-32

Jan.30 - Feb. 3	<u>Dualism: More Arguments</u> Does Moreland give us any better reasons for believing in dualism than Descartes?	<u>Dualism: More Arguments</u> Does Moreland give us any better reasons for believing in dualism than Descartes?	No Class Munro Day
Feb. 6-10	<u>Reading: Moreland, "A Contemporary Defence of Dualism"</u> <u>Problems for Dualism</u> What is the mind-body problem? What is a category mistake?	<u>Reading: Moreland, "A Contemporary Defence of Dualism"</u> <u>Physicalism: Behaviourism and Type-Identity Theory</u> Could minds be wholly physical?	<u>Intentionality Again: Turing Machines & the Turing Test</u>
Feb. 13-17	<u>Functionalism</u> Are mental states functional states? <u>Reading: Churchland, "Functionalism"</u>	<u>Reading: Ryle, "Descartes's Myth" and "Self-Knowledge"</u> Essay #1 Due <u>Functionalism</u> Are mental states functional states? <u>Reading: Churchland, "Functionalism"</u>	<u>Problems for Physicalism</u> What is Nagel's argument against reductionism? <u>Reading: "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"</u>
Feb. 20-24	Reading Week	Essay #2	
Feb. 27 - Mar.2	<u>Time</u> <u>The Dynamic View of Time</u> What is the dynamic view of time? What paradox does it lead to?	<u>The Static View of Time</u> What is the static view of time? What paradox does it lead to?	<u>Time Travel</u> How many major characters are there in Heinlein's story? Do they have free will? <u>Reading: Heinlein, "All You Zombies"</u>
Mar. 5-9	<u>Time-Travel</u> What is the "Grandfather Paradox"? What are its implications for free will? <u>Reading: Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel"</u>	<u>Time Travel</u> How does Lewis try to resolve the paradoxes of time travel? <u>Reading: Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel"</u> Essay #2 Due	TBA
Mar. 12-16	<u>Political Philosophy</u> <u>Prisoner's Dilemma and Hobbes</u> What does the prisoner's dilemma show us about the civil state? <u>Reading: Waluchow, "The Prisoner's Dilemma"</u>	Is any of LeGuin's imagined societies just? Why or why not? <u>Reading: LeGuin, The Dispossessed</u> Essay #3	No Class
Mar. 19-23	Is any LeGuin's imagined societies just? Why or why not? <u>Reading: LeGuin, The Dispossessed</u>	<u>Welfare Liberalism</u> Is Rawls's procedure for selecting principles of justice reasonable? Are his principles reasonable? <u>Reading: Rawls, "A Theory of Justice"</u>	<u>Feminism</u> Are Okin's criticisms of Rawls reasonable? <u>Reading: Okin, "Justice as Fairness: For Whom?"</u>
Mar. 26-30	<u>Classical Liberalism</u> Is free consent the only relevant consideration when distributing goods? <u>Reading: Nozick, "Distributive Justice"</u>	<u>Socialism</u> What are Nielsen's reasons for preferring socialism? Are they well-supported? <u>Reading: Nielsen, "A Moral Case for Socialism"</u>	<u>Anarchism</u> Is the state illegitimate, as Goldman contends? Why or why not? <u>Reading: Goldman, "Anarchism"</u>
Apr.2-4	TBA	TBA Essay #3 Due	