



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy

PHIL 100J Fall 2022

Introduction to Philosophy

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30-3:50pm

Academic Centre (SJ2) 2007

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jason Hoult  
Office: Sweeney Hall (SH) 2114  
Phone: N/A  
Office Hours: Thursdays from 12:30-1:30pm  
Email: Jason.hoult@uwaterloo.ca

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to introduce students to the nature of philosophy. This is done through the examination of core texts and figures in the history of philosophy as well as in the discussion of perennial philosophical questions.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to engage students in a focused discussion of the assigned reading. Students are asked to contribute to the weekly discussion by raising passages, problems, issues, and questions with which they are grappling. What this requires is that students come prepared, each week, to discuss the text, having already made a real attempt to think through some of the challenges that it presents on their own.

Through these discussions, the course aims to immerse students in the process of thinking. It is truly important, then, that each of us, as fellow learners and contributors to the course, feel confident that we can make an error. For it is only when we feel supported by our fellow classmates and instructor that we will expose ourselves to the risk of making a mistake and thereby to the labour—and the joy!—of learning. What is most critical in PHIL 100J is that we construct a context in which each of us feels encouraged to test our own ideas and to learn with and alongside one another.

Students who accept the task of thoughtfully engaging with the reading material and who successfully complete all of the course assignments can expect to emerge from the course with:

- an understanding of a number of concepts, questions, and arguments central to the study of philosophy;
- an understanding of the values that support and that are supported by a philosophical analysis of human thought and action;
- the capacity, on the basis of these values, to call into question uncritical assumptions and opinions about human thought and existence;
- the ability to identify the concepts and critical distinctions that shape the arguments of a text;
- the ability to expose the difference between terms and concepts by identifying the ways and instances in which authors use different terms for the same concept and/or the same term for different concepts; and
- the capacity to engage with a text on the basis of its critical concepts and distinctions by using them to put pressure on difficult passages and, thereby, to put pressure on any simple, literal reading of the text.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS (AND OTHER REQUIRED READINGS)**

The following required texts are available for purchase from the university bookstore. A number of them can also be read online (for free) through the Course Reserves system (a link to the titles available online has been provided on the LEARN course website). Used copies are widely available for purchase anywhere books are sold online.

*Discourse on Method* by René Descartes, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, translated by Donald A. Cress, published by Hackett Publishing Co. (ISBN: 0-87220-422-7 pbk.)

*Selections from the Thoughts* by Blaise Pascal, translated and edited by Arthur H. Beattie, published by Harlan Davidson, Inc. (ISBN: 0-88295-065-7 pbk.)

*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* by Immanuel Kant, translated by James W. Ellington, published by Hackett Publishing Co. (ISBN: 0-87220-166-X pbk.)

*The Gay Science* by Friedrich Nietzsche, translated by Walter Kaufmann, published by Vintage Books, Random House (ISBN: 0-394-71985-9)

*Fear and Trembling* by Søren Kierkegaard, translated and edited by Howard Hong and Edna Hong, published by Princeton University Press (ISBN: 0-691-02026-4 pbk.)

Other required reading material (to access these resources see the links provided in the Course Reserves section on the LEARN course website):

“Apology” in *Five Dialogues* by Plato, translated by G. M. A. Grube, published by Hackett Publishing Co.

*Republic* by Plato, translated by G. M. A. Grube, published by Hackett Publishing Co. (selection)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Assignment	Description	Due date & Percentage of Final Grade
Participation & Engagement	Please see section entitled “Participation & Engagement” below.	Due: Assessed on an ongoing basis Percentage: 10%
Take-home assignment (1)	This short assignment will ask you to provide your understanding of some of the key concepts drawn from the reading material covered over the first half of the term. You will also be asked to provide an analysis of a key passage discussed in class.	Due: <b>October 18<sup>th</sup></b> Percentage: 10%  *Please note that this assignment will be given out one week prior to the due date.
Essay 1	For this assignment, you will be asked to select two passages (from an assigned list) and to write an essay of 1000-1200 words in which you analyze the key concepts, themes, distinctions and arguments found in the passages and in the texts from which they are taken.	Due: <b>November 10<sup>th</sup></b> Percentage: 30%
Take-home assignment (2)	This assignment will ask you to provide your understanding of key concepts drawn from the reading material covered over the second half of the term. You will also be asked to provide a short analysis of a key passage discussed in class.	Due: <b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b> Percentage: 10%  *Please note that this assignment will be given out one week prior to the due date.

Essay 2: Take-home exam	For your final assignment, you will be asked to select two passages (from an assigned list) and to write an essay of 1250-1500 words in which you analyze the key concepts, themes, distinctions and arguments found in the passages as well as in the texts from which they are taken.	Due: <b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b> Percentage: 40%  *This assignment will be given out and discussed during the final class period.
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## PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

It is understood that each student participates differently and that students will contribute more or less to the discussion at varying times throughout the course. Regular attendance (attending 11 out of the 14 classes, with exceptions for illness, etc.) and an engaged presence during class discussions will ensure that you receive a strong participation grade.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Weeks

- 1 September 8: Introduction

This week we will discuss the Course Outline in detail. We will also begin to develop a working understanding of what it means to think and to read critically as a class.

- 2 September 13 & 15: Descartes

Please read:  
*Discourse on Method*, Parts 1-4

- 3 September 20 & 22: Kierkegaard

*Fear and Trembling*, pgs. 1-88

- 4 September 27 & 29: Kierkegaard

*Fear and Trembling*, pgs. 112-123 (omit pgs. 89-111)

## 5 October 4 &amp; 6: Pascal

*Selections from the Thoughts*, Part I: Sections A-E, and G (omit Section F)

Thursday, October 6: First assignment (Take-home assignment [1]) handed out in class and posted on the LEARN course website.

## 6 October 8 – 16

READING WEEK. No classes will be held this week.

## 7 October 18 &amp; 20: Pascal

*Selections from the Thoughts*, Part II (complete) and Part III, Section A (omit Sections B-D)

Tuesday, October 18: First assignment due. (Please see the assignment sheet for submission instructions.)

Thursday, October 20: Second assignment (Essay 1) discussed in class and posted to the LEARN course website.

## 8 October 25 &amp; 27: Nietzsche

*The Gay Science*

Please note that the numbers below do not refer to page numbers but to selected poems and aphorisms in Nietzsche's *The Gay Science*. The aphorisms are the numbered sections that are to be found in the five books that comprise the text.

Poems #7, 16, and 23 (from the opening section "Joke, Cunning, and Revenge")

Book I: #2, 7, 9, 11-12, 19, 21, 25-28, 32, 34, 42, 47, 50-51, 53, 55-56

Book II: #57-58, 76, 78, 92-93, 96, 107

Book III: #108-109, 110-117, 120-124, 125, 126-127, 133, 153, 159, 200, 207, 233, 248-250, 253-255, 259-261, 265-275

9 November 1 & 3: Nietzsche

*The Gay Science*

Book IV: #276-278, 283-287, 289-290, 292, 294, 297, 299, 301, 304-305, 307, 308, 311, 315, 318, 322-325, 327, 334-335, 337-338, 340-341

Book V: #343, 344, 345-346, 352, 354, 355, 371, 373, 374, 377, 379, 380, 381-382

10 November 8 & 10: Kant

*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Part I & II (omit Preface)

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: Second assignment due. (Please see assignment sheet for submission instructions.)

11 November 15 & 17: Kant

*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Part III

12 November 22 & 24: Plato

Please read the "Apology" (complete)

Excerpts from the "Symposium" (these excerpts have been posted on the LEARN course website)

Thursday, November 24: Third assignment (Take-home assignment [2]) distributed during class and posted on the LEARN course website.

13 November 29 & December 1: Plato

"The Divided Line" from the *Republic*, Books VI 484a-511e (pgs. 157-185)

"Allegory of the Cave" (see link provided on the LEARN course website)

Tuesday, November 29: Fourth assignment (Essay 2) handed out in class and posted to the LEARN course website.

Thursday, December 1: Third assignment due. (Please see the assignment sheet for submission instructions.)

## 14 December 6: Review

This week we will review the course material and discuss the final essay assignment in detail.

Fourth assignment (Essay 2: Take-home exam) due by the end of the day Wednesday, December 14.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday, October 18 – First assignment (Take-home assignment [1]) due.

Thursday, November 10 – Second assignment (Essay 1) due.

Thursday, December 1 – Third assignment (Take-home assignment [2]) due.

Wednesday, December 14 – Final day to submit your fourth assignment (Essay 2).

### **ONLINE LEARNING:**

In the event that classes return to an online or remote learning format, we will meet virtually during the same class hours (Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:30-4:00pm) using the **Virtual Classroom** available on the **LEARN course website** (under the “Connect” tab). The class will be recorded and the recordings will be accessible through this webpage.

### **POLICY ON LATE WORK**

Students who are unable to submit their assignment by the due date must contact their instructor prior to the deadline. Students will then arrange, in conversation with their instructor, for an alternative due date to be set. Assignments that are submitted after the initial due date for which students have not arranged an alternative will be penalized 2% for each day that the assignment is late (to a total of 20%).

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students who are unable to attend class due to illness, medical emergencies, family concerns or other personal reasons are asked to email their instructor at their earliest convenience to let him know. Students will not have to justify or to disclose the reason for their absence. If you are continually unable to attend class, please be in touch with your instructor as soon as possible to talk about alternative arrangements or accommodations. Students who do not email their instructor will be counted as absent: more than 3 absences will negatively impact one's participation grade.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Students are encouraged to use only the electronic devices (e.g., laptops) that they need in order to make notes or to engage with the course's reading material. Students not using devices for these purposes will be asked to stop and/or to put away the device.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Please feel free and welcome to be in contact with me by email ([jhoulton@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jhoulton@uwaterloo.ca)) at any time. I shall be responding to emails at various times throughout each day (before 4:00PM). If, however, your request, question, or idea entails a larger discussion, I may write to arrange a meeting during office hours or at another time that works for you. For any additional one-on-one support, you are welcome and encouraged to be in touch.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

All of us need a support system. The SJU faculty and staff encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

### On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

### Off campus, 24/7:

- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x213

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. St. Jerome's University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.



## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

**Note for students with disabilities:** [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.