

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

**Philosophy 2021A: Oppositions and Paradoxes**

MWF 11.30-12.30  
WSC 240

**Prof. John L. Bell**

**DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will investigate the role played in philosophical and scientific thought by *basic oppositions*, such as the Continuous and the Discrete, the One and the Many, the Finite and the Infinite. We shall also analyze the many paradoxes that have arisen in the history of philosophy and science – e. g. Zeno's paradoxes, the Liar Paradox, Russell's paradox, paradoxes of the infinite, and paradoxes arising in relativity theory, quantum theory and time travel.

**TEXTS**

*Oppositions and Paradoxes*: Course notes available from bookstore.

**OBJECTIVES**

This objective of this course is to explain to students the role played in philosophical and scientific thought by *basic oppositions*, such as Continuous vs. Discrete, One vs. Many, and Finite vs. Infinite, and to analyze a number of philosophical and scientific paradoxes, such as Zeno's paradoxes, the Liar Paradox, Russell's paradox, paradoxes of the infinite, and paradoxes arising from time travel.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Two essays and a 2 hour final exam.