

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 2073F: Death
Fall 2015 Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb
Office: Stevenson Hall, room 1144
Office Hours: Mondays, 4:30 – 6 p.m. and immediately
after class.

Class Hours: Mondays, 6 – 9 p.m.
TC rm. 342
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Course info: OWLSakai

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to achieve two goals. The first, and most important, is to introduce students to and/or build upon a set of standard philosophical skills. Using the readings, lectures, and essay assignments this course will help students to identify what it is that makes the set of reasons that support the conclusions of an argument either convincing or implausible by requiring them to formulate well-reasoned responses.

The second goal of this course is to introduce students to the ways in which the aforementioned philosophical skills have been applied by classical and contemporary philosophers to one of the most intriguing elements of human life, i.e., Death. In particular, the arguments we consider will attempt to answer the following sorts of questions: What does it mean to say that a person is dead? What, if anything, survives beyond death? Is death to be feared? Is death 'bad'? When, if ever, is it permissible to bring about death?

Required Texts:

Brennan and Stainton eds., *Philosophy and Death: Introductory Readings* (Broadview Press: 2009)

Course Requirements:

20% - Mid-Term Exam

50% - two 750 – 1000 word essays, worth 25% each*

30% - Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar during the 2015 final examination period, i.e., December 11th – 23rd, 2015)

* Late papers will be assessed a 5% penalty on the first day, and will incur an additional 1% penalty for each subsequent day (weekends included). A grade of 0 will automatically be recorded as soon as the late penalty reaches 50%, or after the last day of classes, i.e., Wednesday, December 9th 2015.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.