

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-2016
Philosophy 3992G (001): Free Will and Moral Responsibility
Antirequisite: Philosophy 4108G if taken in spring 2015



Course website
<https://instruct.uwo.ca/philosophy/234w/>
(cut and paste this address into your browser – including the concluding /)
Access using your uwo e-mail login id and password

Winter Term 2016 MWF 9:30-10:20 Classroom: TC341	Instructor: Lorne Falkenstein Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00, StH 3141 lfalkens@uwo.ca
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DESCRIPTION

This course will study the central texts in the debate over free will and moral responsibility in early modern English language philosophy: the Hobbes/Bramhall debate; Locke's continually revised account in the various editions of the chapter on power in the *Essay*; Clarke's *Demonstration, Discourse*, and debates with Leibniz and Collins; Hume's alternative accounts in the *Treatise* and the *Enquiry*; Edwards's *Enquiry*; Kames's revised accounts in the various editions of his *Essays on the principles of morality and natural religion*; the Price/Priestley debate; and Reid's attacks on Hume and Priestley in his *Essays on the Active Powers*. There will be a brief overview of debates over fate and free will in ancient philosophy and in Augustine. A thesis to be explored in this course is that the question of how determination of the will can be reconciled with moral responsibility was already resolved by Chrysippus in the 3rd century BCE. The real puzzle is why so much uncertainty and controversy has persisted since then. A secondary thesis is that, contrary to what is being maintained in much of the current secondary literature, Hobbes, Locke, and Hume should be understood to have offered successive, increasingly sophisticated versions of the same answer to the question.

TEXTS

The following texts are available from the bookstore. All other readings are available online. 18th century sources will be studied in the original editions available in the [Eighteenth Century Collections Online](#) database.

Cicero, Marcus Tullius. *On Fate / Boethius, The consolation of philosophy*. R.W. Sharples (trans). Warminster: Aris & Phillips, 1991. 0856684767
Augustine of Hippo. *On the Free Choice of the Will, On Grace and Free Choice, and other writings*. Peter King (ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. 9780521001298
Chappell, Vere (ed). *Hobbes and Bramhall on Liberty and Necessity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. 9780521596688

OBJECTIVES

Students graduating from this course will be able to identify the major contributions made by Hobbes, Bramhall, Clarke, Locke, Hume, Kames, Edwards, Price, Priestly, and Reid to the discussion of whether the will is free and whether determination of the will can be reconciled with moral responsibility. They will understand how and why the views of these philosophers developed and changed. And they will have a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their views.

REQUIREMENTS

Research report #1	January 27	-5% if late
Mid term exam	February 10	20%
Research report #2	February 24	-5% if late
Research report #3	March 09	-5% if late
Term paper	April 6 (earlier if there is an early final)	40%
Final exam	Final Exam Period	40%

Policies:

- Students wishing to audit the course should consult with me prior to or during the first week of classes
- Students are welcome to use any electronic device in class; the use and visible presence of electronic devices during exams is prohibited
- In conformity with departmental policy, all written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*. All required papers are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
- No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes (April 6, 2016)
- A passing grade on the final exam is a necessary condition for passing the course
- Non-medical absences from classes or course requirements will not be accommodated. For medical accommodations see <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.
- The Department of Philosophy policies governing the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy. Ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

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

Other support services:

Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)

Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)