

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17**

**Philosophy 2091G: Philosophy in Literature**

**Winter Term 2017**

**MWF 10.30-11.30**

**Classroom: P&AB-34**

**Instructor: Professor John L. Bell**

**STVH 4130**

**Office hours: MWF 11.30-12.30**

**jbelle@uwo.ca**

**DESCRIPTION**

In this course the principal topic of investigation is the *novel of ideas*, which may be broadly defined as a novel in which themes of a philosophical or scientific nature play a prominent role. We shall discuss novels and stories by Orwell, Huxley, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Mann, Koestler, Broch, Hesse, Sartre, Camus, Borges, and others. Some significant works of science fiction will also be discussed.

**TEXTS**

Course notes "Philosophy in Literature", available for purchase at the Bookstore.

**OBJECTIVES**

The central objective of the course is to introduce students to the various philosophical, social and psychological themes underlying the novel of ideas.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Two essays and a final examination, of equal weights.

*Essays.* The first essay will be due halfway through the semester, the second by the last class of term. Each essay should be of 3000-4000 words and should provide an analysis the philosophical or social themes underlying some literary work(s). A brief account of the author's life may be included, but it should be borne in mind that the primary purpose of the essay is analytical, not biographical.

*Final Examination.* This will be of two hours' duration, and will consist of three questions. In the first students will be asked to analyze and comment on the philosophical or social themes underlying a literary work, or works, of their choosing.

(This may be the work(s) chosen for the essay(s), but more credit will be given for a different choice.) The second will be of a general nature concerning the role of philosophy in literature. The third will invite responses to a number of specially selected quotations.

## **AUDIT**

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

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

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 ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

## **ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **PLAGIARISM CHECKING**

All required papers may be 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>.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>  
Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>  
Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>  
Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.