

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Philosophy  
Philosophy 2073G: Death  
Fall 2017 Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb  
Office: Stevenson Hall, room 3146  
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30 – 1:30,  
Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30

Class Hours: Monday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Room: SSC rm. 3014  
e-mail contact: [rrobb@uwo.ca](mailto:rrobb@uwo.ca)  
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 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’?

Required Texts:

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

Course Assessments:

20% - Mid-Term Exam

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

30% - Final Exam (scheduled by the registrar during the December 2017 final examination period, i.e., December 10<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017)

\* 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., Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**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.