

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19

Philosophy 2265B: Talking Philosophy

Fall Term	Instructor: Robert J. Stainton Office: StH 3126
Class Days and Hours: Lecture: Tu 2:30-4:30 Tutorial 002: Th 2:30-3:30 Tutorial 003: Th 3:30-4:30	Office Hours: TBA Phone: 519-661-2111 Email: rstainto@uwo.ca
Classrooms: Lectures: Soc Sci 2036 & on Zoom Tutorials 002 and 003: Soc Sci 2024 & on Zoom	Web Site: http://publish.uwo.ca/~rstainto/

DESCRIPTION

A very first introduction to philosophy of language, this course will focus on fascinating social and ethical issues about “talk”, such as: how language shapes perception; gender-neutral language; racist and sexist language, including slurs and “cat calls”; linguistic reform and the purported “decline of English grammar”; prohibitions on pornography and hate speech; lying and misleading; bullshitting and nonsensical speech; “fake news”.

The course is focused on “talk” in another sense. Rather than lectures, there is a heavy emphasis on in-class discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None. The course will draw heavily on web-based media.

OBJECTIVES

The stress in this class is not on memorization of lectures, but on self-directed learning, honing of transferable skills, and mastery of useful concepts. The skills include: close scrutiny of arguments; oral debate; and careful, clear writing. The concepts include tools from philosophy generally (such as fallacies to avoid, conceptual analysis, and kinds of reasons), but also from the humanistic and scientific study of human language.

In brief, though “philosopher’s findings about talk” will play an important role, the ability to “talk philosophically” will be stressed at least as much.

REQUIREMENTS

First Short Essay (1500 words): 20%

Second Short Essay (1500 words): 20%
Active and Informed Participation: 10%
Glossary: 15%
Take-Home Final Exam: 35%

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- All written work must be submitted electronically to OWL.
- Late submissions will not be accepted without explicit prior permission of the instructor and/or proper medical documentation.

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.

SELF- REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000-

or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

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 the following Web site:
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.