

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2023-24**

**PHILOSOP 2065F
Evil, Suffering, and Pessimism:
An Introduction to Modern Philosophy**

Fall Term

Instructor: N/A

DESCRIPTION

A study of philosophical approaches to evil through the history of modern Western philosophy. We will consider evil as a theological problem (i.e., the problem of evil, optimism, and philosophical attempts at theodicy and objections to these), the origin and significance of suffering, and philosophical responses to the fact of evil and suffering, especially pessimism (the view that this is the “worst of all possible worlds”).

TEXTS

All readings will be available in a Custom Course Book available at the Bookstore

OBJECTIVES

Students successfully completing this course will:

- (1) be familiar with many of the principal philosophers of the modern period (1500-1900) in Western philosophy
- (2) have demonstrated an ability to comprehend and reflect upon complex philosophical arguments,
- (3) be able to write short, argumentative papers

METHOD OF EVALUATION

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Midterm	20%	TBD
Final Exam	40%	TBD
Study Question Responses	10%	Weekly (via OWL)
Short Argumentative Paper	30%	TBD

The Midterm and Final Exam will be in-class assessments and will involve one essay-length response to a question selected by the instructor. Possible questions will be circulated in advance.

The Study Questions are sets of 3-5 questions intended to assist you in your readings of the assigned texts. The questions will be posted at the beginning of each week as an Assignment in Owl. Students will have until the beginning of our in-person meeting to respond to each (no more than a sentence will be required or expected). NOTE: Since the purposes of the SQRs are to prepare you for the weekly lecture, completing them before class is essential. **Therefore, no late submissions will be accepted.**

Detailed information relation to the Short Argumentative Paper assignment will be provided after Reading Week.

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 that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <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.

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive an 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.