

UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline
Fall 2023

Philosophy 2200 (200)
Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

Course Information

PHIL 2200 (200) Intro to Ancient Philosophy. Blended.*

*This is a blended course. One (1) hour per week will be online during which time students are expected to listen to the weekly podcast-style lectures (posted on OWL). The two (2) hours of in-person class time will be devoted to discussion of the course material.

DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with an introduction to the questions confronted by the main figures of Ancient Greek philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic Philosophers). We shall examine such questions as: What is philosophy and how should it be practiced? What is the underlying nature of reality? Is the fundamental state of the universe motion or stability? Is knowledge possible? If so, how do we acquire it? Can we have knowledge of a changing world or does knowledge require eternal, unchanging objects (e.g. Plato's Forms)? What is the nature of happiness and how does one attain it? How many kinds of friendship are there? Is friendship necessary for happiness?

This is a blended course. One hour per week will be online, during which time students are expected to listen to the weekly podcast-style lectures (available on OWL). The two hours of in-person class will be devoted to discussion of the course material.

TEXTS

All texts available at the UWO Bookstore or on Amazon.ca.

Plato, *Five Dialogues*. Hackett Publishing.

Basic Works of Aristotle. Edited by Richard McKeon.

Hellenistic Philosophy: an introduction. Edited by Brad Inwood and Lloyd Gerson.

OBJECTIVES

This course has two objectives. The first is to give students of philosophy an introduction to the origins and foundations of their discipline, including the problems that define it. The second is to help students develop their ability to read and understand difficult philosophical texts and to reflect on the ideas and arguments they offer us. These are basic skills that every well-rounded philosopher should have.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Status	Percentage	Due Date
Class Participation	In class	10%	N/A
Class Attendance	In class	5%	N/A
Short reaction posts (5)	Online	15% (3% x5)	See OWL for dates and instructions
Mid-term Exam	In class	35%	TBD
Final Exam	-	35%	TBD

See OWL for all instructions and late policies pertaining to the assignments.
See below “Student Absences” for policy concerning missed work.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below. Note that in all cases where documentation (medical or otherwise) is required, it can *only* be collected by the student’s Dean’s Office Academic Counselling unit. Do not provide this to your instructor.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:

The only work in the course worth less than 10% of the total course grade are the individual Reaction (forum) Posts. In this case the instructor(s) is empowered to grant academic considerations without referring the student to their academic counsellors. The forum topics are open for one wee. If a student is unable to complete the assignment within this period, and the reason for the absence is deemed appropriate, the instructor may re-open the forum for 48-hours to allow the student to complete missed ones. If a student is unable to complete all five (5) forum posts, then the assignment totals 10% and so is subject to the next policy.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

As per University policy, academic considerations for work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade can be granted only by the student’s Faculty of Registration (typically by their academic counsellors). In such cases, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

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.

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.