

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-12

Philosophy 1130F: Big Ideas

Fall Term 2011

Wed and Fri, 1230-1330 hrs

3M centre Rm 3250

Instructor: Saad Anis

Stevenson Hall 3122 -- Office Hours TBD

519-661-2111 x 81338

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DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course in philosophy, covering some significant ideas that have played a monumental role in shaping human thought and the development of various fields of intellectual and practical pursuit through the ages. From Socrates' fascinating rendition of philosophical dilemmas in sublime dialogic form in Ancient Greece to Popper's view of science and its aims in more recent times, the course will seek to educate participants about the significance of these great ideas in some detail and will encourage them to offer their own critiques. Most of the readings for the course will fall along the traditional division of philosophy into Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics.

TEXTS

There is no text for this course. All the readings will be made available online through WebCT.

OBJECTIVES

1. To enable students to understand, extract, explicate and evaluate the fundamental ideas and arguments offered in selections from the classical philosophical works read in the course.
2. To enable students to be able to articulate philosophical ideas in writing in a clear and engaging manner.

REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to write three essays for the course, each around 1,500 words. The essays will be in response to a prompt, and will involve a clear explication and evaluation of some of the ideas covered in class.

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| First paper | 20% |
| Second paper | 30% |
| Final paper | 30% |
| Tutorial participation | 10% |

AUDIT

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

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.