

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18**

**Philosophy 4023F:
The History of Skepticism from Hellenistic time to Descartes**

Fall Term 2017
Monday 9:30-11:30, Wednesday 9:30- 10:30
Sommerville House (SH) 3355

Instructor: Henrik Lagerlund
STVH 4150, Office Hours: TBA
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Students are responsible for following the Philosophy Department procedures included with this outline. On their office doors, instructors, teaching assistants and tutorial leaders will post information regarding the dates, times and locations of tests and review sessions.

DESCRIPTION

Skepticism was something quite different in Ancient times than it is now. This course will present the history of skepticism as it was introduced in later Greek and early Roman philosophy and developed through the Middle Ages up until the time of Descartes. It will cover both Pyrrhonian and Academic skepticism as well as Augustine's rejection of Academic skepticism. It will then look at how the interest in skepticism dropped off in the earlier parts of the Middle Ages, but was reintroduced in the early fourteenth century. At that time a new skepticism developed based on the idea of God as a deceiver, that is, what we now call external world skepticism. The course then looks at the reaction to this as well as the new-found interest in skepticism in the sixteenth century just before the time of Descartes.

TEXTS

1. Cicero: On Academic Scepticism, Hackett, 2006.
2. Sextus Empiricus: Outlines of Scepticism, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000
3. Augustine: Against the Academicians and the Teacher, Hackett, 1995
4. Montaigne: Apology for Raymond Sebond, Hackett, 2003

REQUIREMENTS

First Essay	25%
Second Essay	25%
Quizzes	40%
Attendance	10%

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- In conformity with departmental policy, all written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.
- Late papers will be penalized 5 percentage points per day late.
- No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

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.

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.