

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline Summer 2018**

**Philosophy 2200F: Ancient Philosophy**

**Intersession 2018  
Tuesday & Thursdays 9.30-12.00  
P & AB 117**

**Instructor: Dr. Dean Proessel  
Office Hours: By appointment  
dproessel@uwo.ca**

**DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to ancient philosophy. Our focus will be on the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and our aim will be to understand what these philosophers say about the nature of reality, knowledge, human action, our place in the world, and what it means to live well. Questions to be examined include: What is knowledge and is it possible? How do we acquire knowledge? What sorts of things is it possible for us to know? What is the connection between virtue and knowledge? What is philosophy and how should we practice it? What is the connection between philosophy and politics? What is the nature of happiness? How is happiness related to virtue and friendship? What might it mean to live a good life?

**TEXTS**

*Plato: The Apology and Other Related Dialogues*  
Broadview Press 2016, Edited by Andrew Bailey

*Plato's Gorgias*  
Hackett 1987 Paperback edition, Translated by Zeyl

*Plato's Republic*  
Hackett 1992 Paperback Edition, Translated by Grube

*Aristotle: Introductory Readings*  
Hackett 1996 Paperback edition, translated by Irwin and Fine

**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. Class discussions, writing assignments, and an exam will provide the main vehicle for assessing a student's success in these areas.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Two short essays (5 to 6 pages in length) – 35% each  
Final exam – 30%

## **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](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

## **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

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](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.