

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19**

Philosophy 2265F: Talking Philosophy

Fall Term

Class Days and Hours: Tu 11:30-12:30;

Th 11:30-1:30

Classroom: AHB 2B04

Web Site: <http://publish.uwo.ca/~rstainto/>

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

Office: STVH 3126

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30

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DESCRIPTION

A very first introduction to philosophy of language, this course will focus on two sets of fascinating issues about “talk”. The first are issues at the intersection of language with philosophy of mind and knowledge, such as: the nature of human language; knowledge of language and how it is acquired; and the relationship between language and perception/thought. The second are issues at the intersection of language with ethics and social issues, such as: prohibitions on pornography and hate speech; gender-neutral language; and the purported “decline of English grammar”.

The course is focused on “talk” in another sense. Rather than lectures, there is a heavy emphasis on in-class discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None. The course will draw heavily on web-based media.

OBJECTIVES

The stress in this class is not on memorization of lectures, but on self-directed learning, honing of transferable skills, and mastery of useful concepts. The skills include close-reading of arguments, oral debate, and careful, clear writing. The concepts include tools from philosophy generally (such as fallacies to avoid, conceptual analysis, and kinds of reasons), but also from the humanistic and scientific study of human language.

In brief, though “philosopher’s findings about talk” will play an important role, the ability to “talk philosophically” will be stressed at least as much.

REQUIREMENTS

First Glossary: 5%

Quiz: 10%

Second Glossary: 10%

Mid-term Test: 20%

Participation: 10%

Short Essay (1500 words): 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Submission instructions

- All written work must be submitted electronically to Turnitin. It must also be submitted, in anonymous form and in hard-copy, either in class or by means of the Philosophy drop box (on the first floor of Stevenson Hall, beside the elevator).
- Late submissions will not be accepted without explicit prior permission of the instructor and/or proper medical documentation.

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.

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

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.