Course Outline

UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Philosophy 101E
Introduction to Philosophy: Values/Society
Fall 2014

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark Young
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark Young

PHONE NUMBER: (780) 791-4825

EMAIL: Mark.Young@keyano.ca

OFFICE NUMBER: S213C

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 5-6pm; Wednesdays 2-4pm; Fridays 1-3pm (or by appointment)

CLASS TIMES: Mondays 6:30pm-9:30pm

PRE-REQUISITES: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides the student with an introduction to the perennial problems of philosophy through the study and critical discussion of selected classical and modern works. The aim of this course is twofold. The student will be introduced to the domain and method of philosophical inquiry. More specifically the student will examine in some detail the areas of ethics and politics. In these areas the relationship between individuals and individuals and society will be highlighted.

COURSE OUTCOMES:
At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the main ethical and political positions in philosophy.

2. Examine some key ethical and political debates in contemporary philosophy.

3. Apply key theories and principles to contemporary issues.

4. Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:
There are two goals I attempt to achieve while teaching; facilitate understanding and provide students with the freedom to formulate their own positions on the issues considered. To accomplish these two goals I refrain, as much as possible, from divulging my own positions on the issues considered, and instead focus on simply explaining, and sometimes critiquing, the specific text under consideration. I will therefore alternate between learning guide and devil’s advocate for the purpose of challenging students to develop their own positions critically. With each class we will focus on an assigned reading, and discussion of the reading amongst the whole class will be strongly encouraged; although no marks are based on participation. With our discussions it is important to display appropriate respect for everyone.
involved. To disagree with others is fine, and even encouraged, but it must be done through arguments, and not personal attacks.

**COURSE TEXT:**

A set of readings has been placed on hold in the library under PHIL 101E. Students will be required to access, and copy, these readings on their own.

**EVALUATION:**

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a mid-term, term paper, a final exam and on-line discussion topics. Below is a brief description of each assignment. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

**First Exam**

The first exam will cover material covered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, short-answer question and an essay question. The essay question will be provided before the exam, and it will follow the same format of the paper proposal and term paper. A review of the material will also occur before the exam, and students will be given a specific outline of the exam, including mark distribution, a week before the exam occurs. The value of this exam is 25% of the total grade.

**Term Paper**

The term paper should be between 5-7 pages (or 1500-2100 words), contain at least two references from the course reading list. A topics list will be provided for the term paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The value of the term paper is 25% of the total grade.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include short answer questions and likely two essay questions. More details will be offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of the final exam is 40% of the total grade.

**On-Line Discussion Topics**

At five points throughout the term I will post discussion topics for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 10%, and therefore 2% for every post. Your response does not have to be lengthy, about a paragraph, but must exhibit understanding of the material and clarity of presentation. Students therefore will be assessed on how well they understand the relevant material and how clearly they present their ideas in written form. Each topic will be available for only a limited time – typically Tuesday to Friday – so late submissions will not be accepted.
ASSIGNMENT DATES:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 October</td>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>Worth 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>Worth 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Worth 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>On-line Topics</td>
<td>Worth 10%</td>
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ACADEMIC POLICIES:

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

TOPICS AND READINGS:

1. **Ethical Theories and Principles**


2. **Political Theories**

   2.1 **Introduction**: Stewart, Blocker and Petrik, Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy, pp.422-428.

   2.2 **Anarchism**: Wolff, In Defense of Anarchism, pp.559-563.

   2.3 **Socialism**: Cohen, Socialism, pp.549-555.

   2.4 **Libertarianism**: Hospers, The Libertarian Manifesto, pp542-548.

   2.5 **Liberal Egalitarianism**: Rawls, The Contemporary Liberal Answer, pp587-597.
2.6 Communitarianism: Sandel, Morality and the Liberal Ideal, pp.556-562.

3. Social/Political Issues


GRADING SCHEMA:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0</td>
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Students intending to transfer to other institutions require a ‘C-‘ as a minimum grade. Transfer information on each course is available at the Alberta Council on Admission and Transfers.

Students who do not complete all the required work should not expect to pass the course.

Students should consult: http://www.keyano.ca/current_students/examinations/index.htm

IMPORTANT DATES:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 16, 2014</td>
<td>Last day to DROP courses with full refund ($100 deposit is non-refundable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10, 2014</td>
<td>Last day to WITHDRAW with a refund (50%)</td>
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<td>November 26, 2014</td>
<td>Last day to WITHDRAW (Grade of W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, 2014</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8 - 12, 2014</td>
<td>Final Exams (do not book holiday travel until you know your exam schedule!)</td>
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MOODLE:

This course is supported through Moodle, as various assignment aids, course outline, as well as other relevant documents will be posted on Moodle. Students will be expected to frequently check the course Moodle platform. Nonetheless, the best way to contact me is via email.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

Equality, Equity and Respect

The Keyano College is committed to providing an environment of equality, equity and respect for all people within the College community. All members of this community are considered partners in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students' experiences and views are treated with equal respect and valued in relation to their gender, ethnic and cultural background, and sexual orientation.

Students should consult:

http://www.keyano.ca/StudentLife/StudentConduct/IndividualRightsPolicy

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Every student expects to be treated and evaluated fairly in a course. Plagiarism and cheating robs everyone of this right.

- No student may submit words, ideas or data of another student or person as his or her own in any writing, project, assignment, quiz, electronic presentation, exam etc. Any work used that is not the student's own must be clearly cited as belonging to someone else. There are penalties for using other's work and not citing it. The Student's Rights & Responsibilities document clearly outlines these penalties and the appeal process.

- No learner can obtain information from another student during an exam.

- No learner can bring unauthorized information (paper or electronic) into an exam or quiz.

- No student can submit work done in another course for grading in this course without the written prior approval of the course instructor.

- No student can submit copyright protected or commercially produced materials as part or all of an assignment without proper citation & permission.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students should consult the Keyano College Credit Calendar or online at:

http://www.keyano.ca/Academics/CreditCalendar
Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career, and academic counselling. Disability Services provides educational services to students with disabilities. Both Counselling and Disability Services are located in CC167.
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5 HOURS PER WEEK

Mark Young, Instructor

Date

Reviewed and approved by:

Louis Dingley, Chair

Date

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date