



UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Course Outline
Monday 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Philosophy 101
Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society
Fall Semester, 2013

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

INSTRUCTOR: Rebecca Tait

INSTRUCTOR: Rebecca Tait
PHONE NUMBER: (416) 668 4242
E-MAIL: Rebecca.tait@keyano.ca
OFFICE NUMBER: TBD

OFFICE HOURS:
By appointment – TBA

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION:

Monday 6:30 – 9:30 PM Room 218

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Philosophy allows us to ask some of the most fundamental questions: What is right, what is wrong? How do we live a good, moral life? Why should we live this way? What social/political order best situates us in that position? What does a happy and meaningful life look like? What guides life - morality, faith, love? How does one act justly? What are the basis for judgments of right and wrong? This course aims to explore, through discussion and text, these questions and the possible answers given by philosophers through Western history. Since ethics is the branch of philosophy concerned with the nature of morality, particularly theories of right and wrong, and political philosophy has its beginnings in ethics these two topics will help shape our discussion of PHILO 101:Values and Society. We will discuss both classical philosophy texts such as Plato, Aristotle, John Stewart Mill, John Rawls, Jean-Paul Sartre and Frederick Nietzsche while also exploring contemporary philosophers such as Judith Butler, Cornel West and Peter Singer. Although we will read a number of historically important philosophers, the primary focus of this class will be the discussions created out of these readings. Asking questions, evaluating their answers and creating a space for dialogue are the main goals of this class. We will also focus on the importance of writing clearly and critically.

This course presupposed no background in philosophy. The purpose of this course is to encourage each person to think for themselves; no single source of argument or text can take the place of personal dialogue and/or discussions. Besides being a subject, philosophy is also a way of thinking. And since the question of what is the good life is not just a philosophical one but rather a broad human one, this course will also draw on a variety of mediums such as literature, visual art, music and film.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. Read and comprehend original texts of philosophy
2. Understand a wide range of philosophers and philosophical conversations
3. Speak intelligently about ethics and politics



REQUIRED RESOURCES

Martin, Robert M. *Philosophical Conversations*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2006.
Course Pack (provided in class)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Week	Topic	Discussion	Text	Media
Week 1 Sept 9	Introduction	Just what is Philosophy and how do we use it? A brief history of philosophy	No reading required	
Week 2 Sept 16	Philosophy and the Good Life	Plato	<i>Plato "The Republic": Book 1</i>	Paper topic handed out
Week 3 Sept 23	Philosophy and the Just Life	Plato Continued...	<i>Plato, "The Apology"; "The Republic": Book IV (434c-443b)</i>	
Week 4 Sept 30	Philosophy and the Examined Life	Plato Continued...	<i>"The Republic": Book VII; Book V (473c – 480a)</i>	
Week 5 Oct 7	Aristotle	Eudaimonia, the Highest Good.	<i>Aristotle: "Nicomachean Ethics": Book 1, Chapter 1-7</i>	Movie: Groundhog Day First Paper Due
Oct 14 -NO CLASS				

Week 6 Oct 21	Moral Theories or “Is this how you do what is right?”	Utilitarianism: John Stewart Mills and Jeremy Bentham	<i>John Stewart Mills: “Utilitarianism” – Introduction, Chapter 2. Jeremy Bentham: “An Introduction to the Principles of Morality and Legislation”: Chapter 4 and 5.</i>	Second paper topic handed out Utilitarianism and Comic Book Superheroes
Week 7 Oct 28	John Rawls: A Theory of Justice .	The Human Condition: Human Freedom and Morality	John Rawls “A Theory of Justice”: Chapter 1 and 2.	
Week 8 Nov 4	Marx, Capitalism and Oppression	Alienated Labor	Marx, “Estranged Labour”: pg 862- 869;875-878. Marx and Engles, “The Communist Manifesto” Sections 1 and 2	Cornel West and Occupy Wall Street Second paper due
Nov 11 - NO CLASS				
Week 9 Nov 18	Fredrick Nietzsche and Beyond...	Beyond Good and Evil and the Ubermensch	<i>Nietzsche, “Beyond Good and Evil The Genealogy of Evil”: Preface, Chapter 1 and Chapter 5</i>	Picasso’s Guernica and Salvador Dali Third Paper topic handed out
Week 10 Nov 25 NO CLASS	Existentialism: The Self and Others	Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. Existence and Essence	<i>Sartre, “Existentialism and Humanism”: pp 28- 28. “Beauvoir”: The Ethics of Ambiguity: Introduction and Conclusion</i>	Edvard Munch ‘The Scream’ Van Gogh ‘Night Café’
Week 11 Dec 2	So...are ethics just relative? Moral Relativism	Anthropology and Philosophy	<i>Ruth Benedict, “Moral Relativism”; Carl Wellman, “The Ethical Implications of Cultural Relativity”</i>	

Week 12 Dec 9	Philo 101:Values and Society Exam Review	Exam preparation questions and course review	No reading	Third paper due Movie: The Examined Life
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EVALUATION:

Assignments and Grades

Attendance and Participation (20%)

3 Short Papers (20% each = 60%)

Final Exam (20%)

1. Attendance and Participation (20%)

Discussion is an essential component of this course. Your presence and participation in both the reading assignments and class discussion is required and encouraged. I will keep track of your attendance and participation. 20% of your grade is a high percentage - all I require for that 20% is you engaged your texts, your fellow student's ideas and possibly add your own.

2. 3 Short Papers (20% each, total 60%)

In the course of the semester you will have the opportunity to write three short papers (3-5 pages or 800-1250 words). Detailed handouts will be given on how to write a philosophy paper, how to do an outline and how to quote and reference the material you use.

First Paper: Topics for this paper will be given on September 23 Paper due on October 7

Second Paper: Topics for this paper will be given on October 21 Paper due November 4

Third Paper: Topics for this paper will be given out on November 18 Paper due December 9

3. Final Exam (20%)

The Final exam for this course will be scheduled during the final exam period. The second half of the last class will cover/review what will be on the exam. During this time I will also provide you with information on the format of the exam along with sample questions.

Lateness and Extension Policy

Extensions will only granted for serious reasons pertaining to the individual. Papers are due at the beginning of class.

Late papers will be penalized. 4% will be taken off of the original grade for each day that it is late. Papers will not be accepted more than a week past deadline.

Requirements for an Enjoyable Philosophical Monday Night

-Attend the class. Readings are great but learning how these texts have affected each one of us and how we can understand as a group will greatly enhance your enjoyment of the class

-Do the readings. Coming to class having not done the readings means you will not have a good time.

Engage with the readings. Buy a journal, write notes when you read. Allow yourself the authority to question these authors and their positions. If you don't understand what they are saying write that down as well. Chances are there are others who feel lost too.

Finally, eat dinner and drink water. Three hour classes are tough enough but on a Monday?

Perhaps bring coffee.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Letter Grade	Description	Grade Points
A+		4
A	Excellent	4
A-		3.7
B+		3.3
B	Good	3
B-		2.7
C+		2.3
C	Satisfactory	2
C-		1.7
D+		1.3
D	Minimal Pass	1
F	Failure	0

Students intending to transfer to other institutions should strive for a 'C-' as a minimum. Transfer information on each course is available at the [Alberta Council on Admission and Transfers](#).

Students who do not complete all the required work will not pass the course. Students should consult:

http://www.keyano.ca/current_students/examinations/index.htm

IMPORTANT DATES:

<i>September 17, 2013</i>	<i>Courses dropped after this date will be designated "W". (A withdrawal (W) is not reflected in your GPA)</i>
<i>October 25, 2013</i>	<i>Courses dropped after this date will be designated "WF". (A withdrawal failure (WF) counts as a 0 in your GPA)</i>
<i>December 6, 2013</i>	<i>Last day of classes</i>
<i>December 9-18, 2013</i>	<i>Final Exams (do not book holiday travel until you know your exam schedule!)</i>

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/Committees/IRA/Individual_Rights_Policy.asp

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 & Responsibilities

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

<http://www.keyano.ca/Media/Collections/Calendars/Keyano.Calendar1112-10-full.pdf>

Specialized Supports and Duty to Accommodate

Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program

If you have a documented disability or you think that you would benefit from some assistance from a Disabilities Counselor, please call or visit the Disability Supports Office 780-792-5608 to book an appointment (across from the library). Services and accommodations are intended to assist you in your program of study, while maintaining the academic standards of Keyano College. We can be of assistance to you in disclosing your disability to your instructor, providing accommodations, and supporting your overall success at Keyano College.

Specialized Supports and Duty to Accommodate

Specialized Support and Duty to Accommodate are aligned with the office of Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program (LAP) guided by federal and provincial human rights legislation, and defined by a number of Keyano College policies. Keyano College is obligated by legislation to provide disability-related accommodations to students with identified disabilities to the point of undue hardship.



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Fall, 2013

3 CREDITS
3 HOURS PER WEEK

Rebecca Tait, Instructor

Date

Reviewed and approved by:

Vincella Thompson, Chair

Date

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date