



COURSE OUTLINE		
<b>TERM:</b> Spring 2020	<b>COURSE NO:</b> PHIL 102	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Michel-Antoine Xhignesse	<b>COURSE TITLE:</b> Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality	
<b>OFFICE:</b> FIR 444 <b>LOCAL:</b> 1-604-986-1911 ext. 3691 <b>E-MAIL:</b> michelxhignesse@capilanou.ca	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b> 03	<b>CREDITS:</b> 3.0
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> Monday 13h00-15h00 PST, Thursday 11h00-12h00 PST		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE:</b> See Moodle		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tseil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

### COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES

None

### WELCOME AND COURSE FORMAT

Welcome to PHIL 102-03! This course will be delivered **fully online** at [eLearn.capu.ca](http://eLearn.capu.ca) for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams/assignments. There is one one-hour designated meeting time per week (**14h30-15h30 PST every Tuesday**), **via Zoom**. These will be discussion sessions covering the previous week's material. Students are expected to be online during discussion time to participate in this class. Students should expect to log in 3-4 times per week and to spend 8-10 hours per week on course readings, practice tests, weekly learning activities, teamwork and assignments. Virtual office hours are hosted on Zoom, Monday 13h00-15h00 PST, Thursday 11h00-12h00 PST.

### REMOTE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Remote teaching and learning is a new context for all of us. We will learn together and interact with empathy, care, and understanding. Your health and well-being is important to us. Please see the university website for the most updated COVID information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/get-to-know-us/covid-19-response/campus-safety/>

### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the part of philosophy concerned with questions about the ultimate nature of the world we live in and our knowledge of it (traditionally called Metaphysics and Epistemology). The issues discussed include: the existence and nature of God, the place of human beings in the universe, the nature of reality, human nature, human knowledge and skepticism, freedom and determinism, and the relationship between mind and body. The emphasis of the course varies from instructor to instructor.

### COURSE NOTE

PHIL 102 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

### REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

All readings will be posted to eLearn.

To participate in this course, you will need to have access to a device (laptop or computer) and WiFi. For live discussion sessions, you may need speakers and a microphone, although you should feel free to rely on the chat function, too. The earphones from your mobile device may be an option. You will also need to download Zoom to your laptop or computer. Zoom is available for free [here](#). I will send you a link to join our meeting every week, as well as my virtual office hours.

The Capilano University Security Safe App may also be useful to you if you are attending campus: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#).

## COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:**

1. Explain the key concepts of epistemology and metaphysics.
2. Explain the major epistemological and metaphysical theories and positions covered in the course.
3. Discuss abstract questions relating to metaphysical and epistemological issues
4. Critically challenge often uncritically accepted assumptions about what we know and the nature of reality.
5. Apply their understanding of epistemological and metaphysical theories and arguments to contemporary issues and contexts.

**Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:**

1. Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
2. Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
3. Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
4. Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

## COURSE CONTENT

Topics and required readings are listed below.

*Week 1, September 8*

### **Orientation Day**

No class today.

- Get yourselves oriented!

*Week 2, September 15*

### **Introduction: What is philosophy?**

What are we trying to do, and why?

- Monroe C. Beardsley and Elizabeth Lane Beardsley – *What is Philosophy?*
- Mary Midgley – *Philosophical Plumbing*
- Helena de Bres – [The Pink Guide to Philosophy](#)

*Week 3, September 22*

### **Free Will**

What is free will, and do we have it?

- Ted Sider – *Free Will and Determinism*
- Alfred Jules Ayer – *Freedom and Necessity*

*Week 4, September 29*

### **Free will and moral responsibility**

Is free will necessary for moral responsibility?

- Thomas Nagel – *Moral Luck*
- Adina Roskies – *Neuroscientific challenges to free will and responsibility*

*Week 5, October 6*

### **Nonexistents**

What is a hole? What about a fictional character? Do they actually exist?

- David Lewis and Stephanie Lewis – *Holes*
- Amie Thomasson – *Fictional Characters as Abstract Artifacts*

*Week 6, October 13*

### **Knowledge and Skepticism I**

How do we know that we exist and the world is the way it looks? Do you know that you have hands?

- René Descartes – *Meditations I and II*
- G.E. Moore – *Proof of an External World*

*Week 7, October 20*

### **Knowledge and Skepticism II**

What *is* knowledge, anyway?

- Plato – *Meno* (excerpts)
- Edmund Gettier – *Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?*
- Linda Zagzebski – *The Inescapability of Gettier Problems*

*Week 8, October 27*

### **Truth**

What is truth?

- Bertrand Russell – *Truth and Falsehood*
- Paul Horwich – *The minimalist conception of truth*

*Week 9, November 3*

### **Truth in Fiction**

Is it true that Harry Potter is a wizard? That he's human?

- David K. Lewis – *Truth in Fiction*
- Tamar Szabó Gendler – [\*Is Dumbledore Gay? Who's to Say?\*](#)

*Week 10, November 10*

### **Privilege**

What is privilege, what does it look like, and what effect does it have on our thinking?

- Peggy McIntosh – *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*
- Linda Nochlin – *Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?*

*Week 11, November 17*

### **Social Construction**

Some things only exist because human beings say so. Are they real?

- Simone de Beauvoir – *The Second Sex (Introduction)*
- Sally Haslanger – *Ontology and Social Construction*

*Week 12, November 24*

### **Minds I**

What is the mind? Is it identical to the brain?

- René Descartes – *Meditations 2 and 6*
- Gilbert Ryle – *Descartes' Myth*
- Terry Bisson – [\*They're Made Out of Meat\*](#)

*Week 13, December 1*

### **Minds II**

What is the mind? Is it identical to the brain?

- Thomas Nagel – *What Is It Like To Be A Bat?*
- Christof Koch and Francis Crick – [\*On the Zombie Within\*](#)
- Robert Stalnaker – *What is it like to be a Zombie?*

*Week 14, December 8*

### **Personal Identity**

Who are you? Can you survive teleportation?

- John Weldon – [\*To Be\*](#) (National Film Board of Canada)
- Derek Parfit – *Personal Identity*
- David Lewis – *Survival and Identity*

## **EVALUATION PROFILE**

Participation: 10%

- 1% per weekly question (online), starting Week 2.

Quizzes (online): 40%

- Weekly, starting Week 2, ending Week 11: 4% each.

Essay (submitted online): 20%

- Final Essay (**due December 9 @ 17h00 PST; Suggested deadline: November 5**)

Exam (online): 30%

- December 9-17

TOTAL: 100%

## GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

### Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete “I” are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

### Late Assignments

Not accepted except at the instructor’s discretion, under extenuating circumstances.

### Essay Rewrites

Your final essay is due April 8 (in class). It may be submitted at any time, and rewritten any number of times **until the last day of class**. The following conditions apply:

- (1) your initial submission was a complete paper,
- (2) your rewrite must conform to the style guidelines (if it doesn’t, it will not be accepted),
- (3) rewrites are due **one week** after the previous version has been returned,
- (4) rewrites **must include a summary of the changes you’ve made to your paper**, and
- (5) late penalties will carry over to rewrites.

### Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

### Participation

The participation grade is based on the submission of one discussion question per week, in advance of our Zoom discussion session. Since our discussions will cover the **previous** week’s material, your questions should, too.

- The **discussion session** will take place **Tuesday** every week at **14h30 PST**.
- The **discussion questions** should aim to raise a point for us to discuss on Tuesdays. These can be factual questions (e.g. “What does X mean?”), conceptual questions (e.g. “How would Y apply to Z?”), clarificatory questions (e.g. “Why does P think that Q?”), or any other question relevant to the week’s topic and readings. **Questions are due at 17h30 every Monday, in the Discussion Forum on eLearn.**

### English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

### Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class.

### Online Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students’ Capilano University email addresses

only.

## UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS

### Tools for Success

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

**Capilano University Security:** download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

### Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

### Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy S2017-05 for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

**Academic dishonesty** is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

**Cheating:** Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

**Fraud:** Creation or use of falsified documents.

**Misuse or misrepresentation of sources:** Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

**Plagiarism:** Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

**Self-Plagiarism:** Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already

been granted without permission of the instructors.

**Prohibited Conduct:** The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

### **Sexual Violence and Misconduct**

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including the [B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy](#) and [B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure](#).

**Emergencies:** Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.