

PHIL 1200 A01
Introduction to Philosophy
2011-2012

Instructor: Michael Stack
Office: 458A University College
Phone: 474-9939
E-Mail: mstack@cc.umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Slot 5 - Tuesday
Slot 9 - Thursday

This course is concerned with the question of what we should believe. There seems to be many possibilities, since people do in fact believe many different things. There also seems to be many possible ways of believing: on the basis of evidence, according to how you have been brought up, by flipping a coin, and so on. Perhaps there is a best way to form beliefs, and perhaps some beliefs are best, maybe even true. We will try and find out.

Among the beliefs to be examined are beliefs about: religion, science, human nature, history, morality, and government.

More specifically material will be presented (see text) roughly in the order: philosophy of religion, epistemology, metaphysics, and social philosophy. Topics in logic and ethics will be presented at various points along the way.

You are responsible for knowledge of material presented in class, and of indicated material in the text and in handouts.

Text: Morton, A., *Philosophy in Practice: An introduction to the Main Questions* (2nd ed).

Course Work: 6 tests. Final grade based on the best 5 (20% each), Dates and nature of tests TBA.

Penalties for Plagiarism: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in the Faculty. The faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Other Information:

1. U of M students Rights and Responsibilities - To practice personal and academic integrity;
 - To respect the dignity and individuality of all person;
 - To respect the rights and property of others;
 - To take responsibility for one's own personal and academic commitments;
 - To contribute to our community for fair, cooperative and honest inquiry and learning;
 - To respect and strive to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;
 - To refrain from and discourage the behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect that others deserve.

2. Diversity/Equity Services

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, or have a disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should discuss these issues with your instructor and/or one of the following Student Affairs offices as soon as possible:

- Disability Services, 155 University Centre, Ph: 474-6213 (voice), 474-9690 (TTY)
- Student Counseling and Career Centre, 474 University Centre, Ph: 474-8592
- Learning Assistance Centre, 520 University Centre, Ph: 474-9251

Grades:

In this course (though not necessarily in any other course in the Department of Philosophy) the following equivalence between letter grades and percentages is used:

A+: 90-100 A: 80-89 B+: 75-79 B: 67-74

C+: 60-66 C: 50-59 D: 45-49 F: 0-45

Please Note: The last day for voluntary withdrawal from all full courses and second term half courses is **March 16, 2012**.