Time: MWF, 1:30 to 2:20
Place: 237 University College
Instructor: Carl Matheson

How to reach me:
Office: 459 University College.
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 – 3:30, and by appointment.
Phone: 204.474.9106
Email: carl.matheson@umanitoba.ca. This is the most reliable way of reaching me; I check my email several times a day.

Text: Exploring Philosophy, Sixth Edition (Steven M. Cahn, ed.)
Additional readings will be made available on UM Learn or distributed in class. I’ll let you know as I add more readings on UM Learn, but you should also keep track of changes on your own.

Content. We’ll examine five topics in detail.

During Fall Term:
1) **Morality**: What is morally good? What is the right thing to do? How can we apply our general discussion to particular moral problems? For instance, how much should one give to the poor? Under what conditions (none, all, or some) is abortion morally permissible?
2) **God**: What makes something God, or a god? Can we prove that God exists? Can we prove that God doesn’t exist?

During Winter Term:
3) **Knowledge**: What is it to know something? What is it to be justified in believing something? Do we know anything at all? Are we justified in believing what our senses tell us about the world? Are we ever justified in believing general claims on the basis of incomplete evidence?
4) **Persons**: What are you? Are you a soul – and does the concept of a soul even make sense? Are you a body? Are you a brain? What makes the person who got out of bed today the same person (or not) as the one who went to sleep in that same bed last night? Can you survive the death of your body?
4) **Freedom**: Do you act freely? Does anyone ever act freely? What about drug addicts, people under hypnosis, and people who act under coercion? Does the answer to any of these questions depend on the sort of physical laws that govern the universe?
Grading. You will write four in-class tests and one four-page paper. Each of these will be worth 20% of your grade.

The voluntary withdrawal (VW) date for the course is January 17, 2019.

Academic Integrity: This is serious; pay attention!

For your in-class tests, do not employ any external materials, such as your class-notes. Don’t copy the tests of others. If you have any worries or concerns, ask me before the test begins.

For your paper, whenever you use somebody else’s words or ideas, give them credit. This requirement applies to your use of web-sites. We can talk more about citation practices in class.

You’ll be able to find out more about academic integrity at the University of Manitoba here:
http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/academicintegrity/students/index.html

However, if you have any concerns or questions about academic integrity, let’s talk about them.