

**PHILOSOPHY 1200 (A02) – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (RL)**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
1130-1220 MWF

Instructor (wtr term): Dave Hampton  
UC 468  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description: The overall objective of this course is to provide the student with a broad understanding of the scope and concerns of philosophy as well as the ‘tools’ of philosophical inquiry – critical reasoning. In pursuing the former this course will provide the student with an introduction to three of the core fields within philosophy: axiology (value theory), epistemology (theory of knowledge), and metaphysics (the nature of reality). In the winter term we will focus on metaphysics (philosophy of mind and personal identity) and epistemology.

Text: none - all readings will be posted to UM Learn

Student Evaluation:

Tests	40%
Term Essay	30%
Final Examination	30%

Important Note: Final course grades are subject to the approval of the Faculty of Arts and may be subject to change in order to fall within the parameters set by this Faculty.

Evaluation Explanations:

Tests: There will be two tests on February 22 and April 14. The test will consist of short answer questions related to the preceding material. They will be non-cumulative. Each test is worth 20% of the student’s course grade for the winter term.

Term Essay: There will be one short (1250 words; @ 5 pp.) argumentative essay due on Mar 12. Students will be provided with a selection of topic questions to choose from roughly around the time of the winter break. The essay will be worth 30% of the student’s course grade for the winter term.

Final Examination: There will be a final examination scheduled in the end-of-term exam period. It will be 2 hours long and require students to compose an essay from a selection of topic questions. The topics will be selected from material covered in the last half of the course. The final will be worth 30% of the student’s course grade for the winter term.

Late Policy &: Overdue work will only be accepted with a documented medical excuse or on the basis of a serious personal crisis. Note that failing to manage one’s time is not a ‘serious personal crisis.’

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating and examination impersonation (see the Academic Integrity Section of the University of Manitoba Academic Regulations, Undergraduate Calendar, 2020-21). Please note that the Philosophy Department possesses a ‘no tolerance’ policy with regard to exam offences.

Approximate Grade Scale:

A+	95%+	A	85-94%	B+	80-84%	B	70-79%
C+	65-69%	C	55-64%	D	50-54%	F	<50%

## APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

### Introduction

Jan 18 ..... Course Introduction & Expectations

### Metaphysics: Philosophy of Mind

Jan 20 ..... Read Pojman, Ch. 15 *Philosophy: The Pursuit of Wisdom*, Read Churchland, excerpt from *Matter and Consciousness*, pp. 7-13  
Jan 22 ..... Read Churchland, excerpt from *Matter and Consciousness*, pp. 13-21  
Jan 25 ..... Read Churchland, excerpt from *Matter and Consciousness*, pp. 36-38  
Jan 27 ..... Read Chalmers, "Against Materialism"  
Jan 29 ..... **VW Date for fall/wtr spanned courses**; continue Chalmers  
Feb 1 ..... Continue Chalmers, Read Searle, "Minds, Brains and Programs"  
Feb 3 ..... Continue Searle  
Feb 5 ..... Continue Searle, Read Haugeland, excerpts from *Artificial Intelligence: The very Idea*, pp. 39, 110-112, 117-123  
Feb 8 ..... Continue Haugeland

### Metaphysics: Personal Identity

Feb 10 ..... Read Pojman, Ch. 18 *Philosophy: The Pursuit of Wisdom*  
Feb 12 ..... Tips for Test #1  
  
Feb 15 ..... Louis Riel Day, no class  
Feb 16-19 ..... Winter Term Break, no classes  
  
Feb 22 ..... Read Locke, excerpt from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, pp. 112-122 and Reid, "A Critique of Locke's Theory of Personal Identity"  
Feb 24 ..... Continue Locke & Reid  
Feb 26 ..... **Test #1**  
Mar 1 ..... Read Parfit, "Personal Identity"  
Mar 3 ..... Continue Parfit  
Mar 5 ..... Continue Parfit, Read Schechtman, "Personhood and Personal Identity"  
Mar 8 ..... Continue Schechtman  
Mar 10 ..... Continue Schechtman

### Epistemology

Mar 12 ..... **Term Essay Due**, Read Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy" pp. 6-12  
Mar 15 ..... Continue Descartes, Read Locke, excerpt from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, pp. 18-23, 29-33, 43-45  
Mar 17 ..... Continue Locke  
Mar 19 ..... Read Huemer, "The Lure of Radical Skepticism"  
Mar 22 ..... Continue Huemer  
Mar 24 ..... Continue Huemer  
Mar 26 ..... Read Hardwig, "Epistemic Dependence"  
Mar 29 ..... Continue Hardwig  
Mar 31 ..... Read Pojman, Ch. 8 *What Can We Know?*  
  
Apr 2 ..... Good Friday, no class  
  
Apr 5 ..... Continue Pojman  
Apr 7 ..... Tips for Test #2  
Apr 9 ..... Read Greco, "Virtues and Rules in Epistemology"  
Apr 12 ..... Continue Greco  
Apr 14 ..... **Test #2**  
Apr 16 ..... Tips for the Final Exam  
  
Apr 19-May 1 ..... Final Exam Period