

PHIL 1200 Introduction to Philosophy (T1)

Instructor: Robert Shaver, 458 University College, 474-9109, robert.shaver@umanitoba.ca, office hours by Zoom appointment (I'm almost always free MWF 11:30-12:20).

Texts: Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1, 1971, 47-66; Thomson, "Self-Defense," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 20, 1991, 283-310; A. C. Ewing, "The Pursuit of the General Happiness;" T. M. Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other*, pp. 229-41; Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chs. 13-15; John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapter V; John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, ch. 2; Colin Radford, "How Can We Be Moved by the Fate of Anna Karenina?" *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 49, 1975, 67-80; J. L. Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence," *Mind* 64, 1955, 200-212.

Mackie, both Thomson articles, and Radford are available electronically through the library catalogue. Scanlon and Ewing will be posted on UMLearn. Hobbes, Locke, and Mill are available on many internet sites, such as gutenberg.org.

Classes will be in the scheduled slots over Zoom. I'll post notes on UMLearn before class. These notes will be what I would ordinarily put on the board. They're often not self-explanatory, and won't substitute for being in class. You'll sometimes need to be looking at these notes during class. My aim is to make the class as close as possible to the experience of taking it in the ordinary way, in-person.

For Zoom, I'm hoping everyone can use both audio and visual. If it keeps crashing (as it might), we can go to audio-only, or with just me on visual. For participation, you can either raise your hand (hit Participants at the bottom centre, then Raise Hand on the far right bottom) or just unmute and speak—we'll see which works better. We won't use the Chat function, but I will use the Whiteboard. Expect some screw-ups, from my internet or from yours or from Zoom.

I'll email Zoom meeting numbers and passwords before the first class. You don't need a Zoom account.

Normally, the class proceeds by my putting an argument on the board and explaining it, with the rest of the class being discussion of it (by you—I'll clarify things, but I'll mainly be a referee). I'm planning on the same with Zoom. Things went as they ordinarily would when I finished the term on Zoom last March and April.

Evaluation: (1) a portion of a paper (one paragraph, just the objection) (15%, Oct 9); (2) a portion of a paper (2 paragraphs, exposition and objection) (15%, Nov 6); for (1) and (2), I'll give possible questions ahead, then I'll choose one of the questions and give you 24 hours to submit; (3) one full paper (1000 words) (20%, Dec 14). I'll give full comments on (1) and (3); for (2), I'll just give a mark and a brief explanation for it.

Good writing skills are mandatory; no poorly written paper will do well, regardless of content.

Participation can help but not hurt your mark.

Marking scale: A+: 90-100; A: 80-89; B+ 75-79; B: 70-74; C+: 65-69; C 60-64; D: 50-59; F: 0-49 (an F paper gets a 35%).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences. Note the statements in section 8 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements and the Academic Integrity section of the Arts website. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or exam 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 exam, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to 5 years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarised to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.