

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PHIL 1010Y)

MON/WED/FRI 10:35A - 11:25A

HENRY HICKS ACADEMIC 212

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Andrew Inkpen

**Email:** inkpen@dal.ca

**Office:** 1376 LeMarchant St, rm: 202

**Office Hours:** Wed 12:30 - 2:30p

## DESCRIPTION

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**General** This course satisfies the university writing requirement. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with several of the major themes in classical philosophical thought. We will examine such questions as: What makes an action right or wrong? Do we have moral duties to the less fortunate? What sorts of duties do we have to nonhuman animals? Is morality culturally relative? What makes someone's life go best? We will examine these questions and various answers to them through excerpts from the works of philosophers from the ancient to modern period. Students will be encouraged not only to master the material itself but also to develop their own critical and philosophical skills. The format of this course will be a mixture of lecture and discussion.

**Class** There will be weekly reading-assignments. You should bring your text to class and be prepared to discuss the material covered. Fridays will generally be conducted as tutorials. You will be assigned to a tutorial group, which may meet in a different classroom, and you should attend the session for that group and be prepared to discuss material from the lectures and readings.

**Tutorial** 10:35a - 11:25a: Hicks 212, **McCain 2190\***, **McCain 2102\***

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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**Tiffany** email: tf533467@dal.ca

**Gordon** office: McCain 2142

office hours: TBA

**Kate Bark** email: kate.bark@dal.ca

office: McCain 2142

office hours: TBA

## WEBSITE

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**BrightSpace** <https://dal.brightspace.com>

## TEXTS

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**Required** Gendler et al *The Elements of Philosophy: Readings from Past and Present*, OUP

*Suggested* *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)  
Jim Pryor's *Guide to Writing* (<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html#Early>)

## EVALUATION

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**Essay Exercise** **4%** (Due: Jan 27)

This short assignment will focus on writing a philosophical essay. You will **complete this exercise during the tutorial session on Jan 27th**. During this session, the tutorial instructor will guide you through writing a philosophical essay addressing a mock essay question. You will hand in your essay at the end of tutorial. This assignment will be graded as satisfactory (4%) or unsatisfactory (0%).

**Three Essays** **5%, 10%, 10%** (Due: Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 10)

You are required to write three short essays in this class. The first is worth 5%, the following two are worth 10% each. These essays should be between four and five double-spaced pages (~1300 words). **They are due at the start of class** (hard copies are strongly preferred). I will provide essay topics two weeks prior to the due date. The essays should be argumentative in style and concisely written.

**Workshops** **3%, 3%, 3%** (Due: Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 7)

Writing *is* rewriting. Writing *is* rewriting. During tutorial sessions on Feb 10th, Mar 10th, and Apr 7th, you will be workshopping your essays, for style and content.

**Come to these sessions with drafts (preferably full) of your essays to get these marks!** You will then have a weekend to re-write your essay before its due.

**Final Exam** **12%** (During exam period)

You are required to write the final exam **held during the exam period**.

**Tutorials** Although there will be no mark for merely attending tutorial, everyone is expected to take part in tutorial sections on a regular basis. This means that you should regularly attend these sections and ask and answer questions. Please come prepared having done all the relevant readings before the start of each section. Your TA will explain further details about these sections in your first meeting.

## ASSESSMENT

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**DAL Rubric** **A+ (90+)/A (89-85)/A- (84-80)**: Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.  
**B+ (79-77)/ B (76-73)/ B- (72-70)**: Represents achievement that is well above the level necessary to meet course requirements.  
**C+ (69-65)/ C (64-60)/ C- (59-55)**: Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.  
**D (54-50)**: Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.  
**F (49-0)**: Represents failure that is not worthy of credit even if some course requirements were met.

**Late Essays** Late essays will be penalized 5% per working day up to a maximum of seven days, after which they will not be accepted. If you miss tutorial without a valid excuse on Jan 27th, Feb 10th, Mar 10th, Apr 7th, you will not get those marks.

## UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC POLICIES

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**Plagiarism** All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at: <http://www.registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations

**Accessibility Statement** Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see: [www.dal.ca/access](http://www.dal.ca/access), for more information and to obtain Form A: Request for Accommodation.

**Difficulties** If you are having trouble with the course come see the instructor or TAs immediately. If you need extra help with your writing, you can contact the Writing Centre in the Killam Library (<http://writingcentre.dal.ca>). A Study Skills Programme is offered by Academic Support (Killam Library: 494-3077).

**Inclusivity Statement** King's College and Dalhousie University are committed to a welcoming and respectful working and learning environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. We encourage open dialogue, however members of the class are expected to refrain from speaking or behaving in ways that are harmful to others, through racism, homophobia, sexism, or other derogatory treatment based on characteristics protected under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Please do not hesitate to speak with me if you have questions or concerns, or see the following website for further information on resources and supports: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/dalrespect.html> The full list of characteristics protected under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act can be found here: [http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/university\\_secretariat/policy-repository/ProhibitedDiscriminationPolicy.pdf](http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/university_secretariat/policy-repository/ProhibitedDiscriminationPolicy.pdf)

## SCHEDULE

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### Week 1 **UTILITARIANISM**

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**J 9** Introduction - Syllabus

**J 11** Mill, "Selections from Utilitarianism"

**J 13** Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism"

### Week 2 **DEONTOLOGY**

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**J 16** Williams, "Utilitarianism, Integrity and Responsibility"

**J 18** Kant, "Selections from Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals"

	<i>J 20</i> [Tutorial]
Week 3	<b>VIRTUE ETHICS</b>
	<i>J 23</i> O'Neill, "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics" - <i>Essay Exercise Assigned</i>
	<i>J 25</i> Hursthouse, "Normative Virtue Ethics"
	<i>J 27</i> [Tutorial] - <b>**Essay Exercise**</b>
Week 4	<b>MORAL DUTIES TO THE LESS FORTUNATE</b>
	<i>J 30</i> Singer, "Rich and Poor"
	<i>F 1</i> Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor" - <i>Essay 1 Assigned</i>
	<i>F 3</i> <b>Munro Day - No Classes</b>
Week 5	<b>VEGETARIANISM</b>
	<i>F 6</i> Norcross, "Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases"
	<i>F 8</i> Cohen, "A Critique of the Alleged Moral Basis of Vegetarianism"
	<i>F 10</i> [Tutorial] - <b>**Essay 1 Workshop**</b>
Week 6	<b>ZOOS</b>
	<i>F 13</i> Jamieson, "Against Zoos" (online)
	<i>F 15</i> Jamieson, "Zoos Revisited" (online) - <b>**Essay 1 Due**</b>
	<i>F 17</i> [Tutorial]
Week 7	<b>WINTER BREAK - NO CLASSES</b>
Week 8	<b>ENVIRONMENTALISM</b>
	<i>F 27</i> Katz, "Preserving the Distinction Between Nature and Artifact" (online)
	<i>M 1</i> Vogel, "Why Nature has No Place" (online) - <i>Essay 2 Assigned</i>
	<i>M 3</i> [Tutorial]
Week 9	<b>MORAL PUZZLES 1</b>
	<i>M 6</i> Thompson, "The Trolley Problem"
	<i>M 8</i> Nagel, "Moral Luck"
	<i>M 10</i> [Tutorial] - <b>**Essay 2 Workshop**</b>
Week 10	<b>MORAL PUZZLES 2</b>
	<i>M 13</i> Nozick, "Experience Machine" (online)
	<i>M 15</i> Plato, "Glaucón's Challenge" - <b>*Essay 2 Due*</b>
	<i>M 17</i> [Tutorial]

Week 11	<b>ETHICAL RELATIVISM AND AESTHETICS</b>
<i>M 20</i>	Rachels, “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism”
<i>M 22</i>	Lessing, “What is Wrong with a Forgery?” (online)
<i>M 24</i>	[Tutorial]
Week 12	<b>POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY</b>
<i>M 27</i>	Hobbes, “Contract and Commonwealth” - <i>Essay 3 Assigned</i>
<i>M 29</i>	Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
<i>M 31</i>	[Tutorial]
Week 13	<b>ON LIFE</b>
<i>A 3</i>	Sartre, “Existentialism”
<i>A 5</i>	Parfit, “What Makes Someone's Life Go Best?”
<i>A 7</i>	[Tutorial] - <b>**Essay 3 Workshop**</b>
Week 14	<b>EXAM REVIEW</b>
<i>A 10</i>	Exam Review (Last day of class) - <b>*Essay 3 Due*</b>