



COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Spring 2023	COURSE NO: PHIL 305	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Philosophy Through Film	
OFFICE: LOCAL: Email:	SECTION NO	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷmə̌ł̓ ʔkʷəyəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines and evaluates central philosophical themes and problems by means of the visual medium of film. Philosophical topics examined through the medium of film are as broad and varied as philosophy itself, but themes that have been more extensively explored include the nature of personal identity, what it is to be human, the existence and limits of free will, the existence of God, the meaning of life, as well as a wide array of issues in ethics and political philosophy. Philosophical texts and essays will be integrated with the viewing of the films in order to bring additional focus and depth to the philosophical examination of the films. Specific films and readings assigned will vary from instructor to instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Amy Karofsky & Mary Litch, *Philosophy Through Film* (4th Edition). Routledge 2020. Additional articles and essays will be made available online via the course page.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Accurately and clearly explain the key philosophical themes of the course by reference to film.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the major philosophical theories and the positions covered in the course.
3. Thoughtfully and critically discuss abstract philosophical questions through film.
4. Employ film-based thought experiments as a medium for philosophical enquiry.
5. Critically challenge often uncritically accepted assumptions, including their own assumptions or beliefs.
6. Critically examine complex lines of reasoning.
7. Construct and express, verbally and in writing, complex lines of reasoning.

COURSE CONTENT

The content and week-by-week breakdown will vary by term and by instructor. The following is an example.

	Topic	Films	Readings
Lecture 1	Introduction	None	None
Lecture 2	Appearance and Reality	<i>The Matrix</i> <i>Inception</i>	Descartes: <i>Meditations 1 and 2</i>
Lecture 3	Appearance and Reality	<i>The Truman Show</i> <i>Arrival</i>	Berkeley: Excerpt from <i>A Treatise Concerning Human Knowledge</i> Kant: Excerpt from <i>Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics</i>
Lecture 4	Personal Identity	<i>The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i> <i>Being John Malkovich</i>	Locke: <i>Of Identity and Diversity</i> , Parfit: <i>Personal Identity</i>
Lecture 5	Personal Identity	<i>Bladerunner</i> <i>The Truman Show</i>	Williams: <i>The Self and the Future</i>
Lecture 6	Consciousness	<i>Ex Machina</i> <i>Bladerunner</i>	Patricia Smith Churchland, excerpts from <i>Can Neurobiology Teach us Anything about Consciousness?</i> Frank Jackson: extract from <i>What Mary Didn't Know</i>
Lecture 7	Artificial Intelligence	<i>Transcendence</i> <i>Her</i>	Alan Turing: excerpts from <i>Computing Machinery and Intelligence</i> Searle: excerpts from <i>Minds, Brains and Programs</i>

Lecture 8	Free Will	<i>Minority Report</i> <i>The Matrix</i>	Michael McKenna, <i>Neo's Freedom ...</i> <i>Whoa!</i>
			Eisikovits, N & Shai Biderman, <i>So Tired of the Future: Freedom and Determinism in Minority Report</i>
Lecture 9	Free Will	<i>Memento</i> <i>Beautiful Boy</i>	Frankfurt: extract from <i>Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person</i>
Lecture 10	Moral Responsibility	<i>Minority Report</i> <i>No Country for Old Men</i>	Nagel: <i>Moral Luck</i>
Lecture 11	Morality and Relativism	<i>Crimes and Misdemeanors</i> <i>Gone Baby Gone</i>	Rachels: <i>Moral Relativism</i> Jean-Paul Sartre: excerpts from <i>Existentialism is a Humanism</i>
Lecture 12	The Problem of Evil	<i>God on Trial</i> <i>Silence</i>	J. L. Mackie, excerpts from <i>Evil and Omnipotence</i> Augustine: excerpts from <i>On Free Choice of the Will</i>
Lecture 13	Existentialism	<i>The Seventh Seal</i> <i>No Country for Old Men</i>	Camus: Except from <i>The Myth of Sisyphus</i>
Weeks 14-15	Final Exam Period		

EVALUATION PROFILE

The final grade for the course will be made up of the following:

Participation	10%
Tests:	
Forum posts (10% each)	30%
Essay 1	30%
Essay 2	30%
Total	100%

Full marks for participation require that students are present and actively engaged in all classactivities.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Make-up exams or assignment extensions are given at the discretion of the instructor and generally only in medical emergencies or cases of severe personal crisis. Documentation (e.g., doctor's note) establishing the reasons for the missed assignment or exam will usually be required. You should notify the instructor in advance if you will miss an assignment deadline or an exam. Any reasons given after a missed exam or assignment deadline that could have been given beforehand will not be accepted as grounds for make-up exam or assignment extension. Unless otherwise arranged, no work will be accepted after the final lecture.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. You must notify the instructor in advance if you will miss an assignment deadline or an exam. Any reasons given after a missed exam or assignment deadline that could have been given beforehand will not be accepted as grounds for make-up exam or assignment extension. Unless otherwise arranged, no work will be accepted after the final lecture.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities. If you cannot attend because of illness or because you are caring for someone who is ill, appropriate documentation corroborating such will be expected.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks may be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only. Smartphones are to be put away during class.

On-line Communication

Please be sure to check your official Capilano University email regularly as all official communication will be sent via this email address only. Additionally, you should be logging on to eLearn 3 to 4 times per week in case there are any important updates.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has

already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilano.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.

DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Course Policies Related to the Turnitin Software:

Written work for this course will be submitted via Turnitin, a third-party service licensed for use by Capilano University. Turnitin is used for originality checking to help detect plagiarism. Students will be required to agree to Turnitin's end-user license agreement when submitting the first assignment on eLearn. All submitted assignments will be included in the Capilano University dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin and will be used solely for the purpose of checking for possible plagiarism during the grading process during this term and in the future. Any student with a concern regarding using this service should contact the instructor to make alternative arrangements. This service is compliant with British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.