

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
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Classroom: Talbot College 309

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is the responsibility of the student to understand the policies set out by the University Senate and the Department of Philosophy.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should contact Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Reading Schedule
Death – PHIL2073G, Winter Semester 2016

January 4th – Classes resume

Unit 1 – Ancient views on Death

January 7th

Introduction

Overview of the course, the assignments, and class objectives

Epicurean views on death

Epicurus – “Letter to Menoecus, 10.11-15,” in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 161-66.

January 14th

Epicurean views on death continued

Lucretius – “On the Nature of Things,” Bk. III, in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 172-76.

Platonic views on death

Plato – excerpts from *Phaedo*, in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 453-59.

January 21st

Platonic views on death continued

Plato – excerpts from *Phaedo*, in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 445-52.

January 28th

Stoic views on death

Seneca – excerpts from *Letters from a Stoic*. Available on the course website.

Epictetus – *Discourses*, Book I, Ch. 12, 24-25. Available on the course website.

February 4th

Some responses to the Epicurean view of death

Thomas Nagel – “Death,” in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 177-84.

Harry Silverstein – “The Evil of Death,” in *Philosophy and Death*, pp. 185-94.

Unit 2 – Mortality and Immortality

February 1st

First Essay Due

Pascal's Wager and Nietzsche's Eternal Recurrence

Blaise Pascal – excerpts from *Pensées*. Available on the course website.

Friedrich Nietzsche – “The Greatest Weight” from *The Gay Science*; “The Eternal Recurrence” from *The Will to Power*; “Of the Vision and the Riddle: 2” from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Available on the course website

February 15th – 19th – Reading Week

February 25th

Personal Identity – Locke's stockings, and Theseus's Ship

John Locke – “On Identity and Diversity,” Book II, Ch. 27 Essay Concerning Human Understanding Book II Ch. 27. Available on the course website.

John Perry – “A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality” *Philosophy and Death*, pp.65-75.

March 3rd

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March 31st

Suicide

Second Essay Due

Albert Camus – excerpts from *The Myth of Sisyphus*

Schopenhauer – ‘On Suicide’, from *Parergo and Paralipomena* Vol.2. Available on the course website.

Richard Brandt – ‘The Morality and Rationality of Suicide’, in *Philosophy and Death*, pp.312-329.

Final class

April 6th – Last day of classes.

Final Exam: TBA