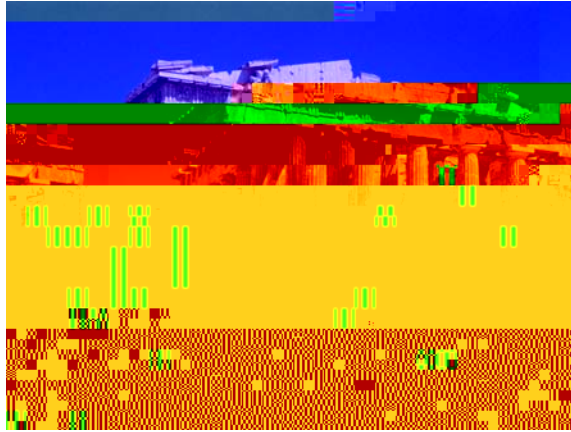


WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-2016
Philosophy 3992G (001): Free Will and Moral Responsibility
Antirequisite: Philosophy 4108G if taken in spring 2015



Course website
<https://instruct.uwo.ca/philosophy/234w/>
(cut and paste this address into your browser – including the concluding /)
Access using your uwo e-mail login id and password

Winter Term 2016
MWF 9:30-10:20
Classroom: TC341

Instructor: Lorne Falkenstein
Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00, StH 3141
lfalkens@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

This course will study the central texts in the debate over free will and moral responsibility in early modern English language philosophy: the Hobbes/Bramhall debate; Locke's continually revised account in the various editions of the chapter on power in the Essay; Clarke's Demonstration, Discourse and debates with Leibniz and Collins; Hume's alternative accounts in the Treatise and the Enquiry; Edwards's Enquiry; Kames's revised accounts in the various editions of his Essays on the principles of morality and natural religion; the Price/Priestley debate; and Reid's attacks on Hume and Priestley in his Essays on the Active Powers. There will be a brief overview of debates over fate and will in ancient philosophy and in Augustine. A thesis to be explored in this course is that the question of how determination of the will can be reconciled with moral responsibility was already resolved by Chrysippus in the 3rd century BCE. The real puzzle is why so much uncertainty and controversy has persisted since then. A secondary thesis is that, contrary to what is being maintained in much of the current secondary literature, Hobbes, Locke, and Hume should be understood to have offered successive, increasingly sophisticated versions of the same answer to the question.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences_undergraduate.pdf

The Department of Philosophy policies governing conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html> It is your responsibility to

understand the policies set out by the Senate of the Department of Philosophy. Ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

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

Other support services:

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services/>