

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016-17

Philosophy 2010: The Philosophy of Food

Fall Term 2016
UCC66
T 12:30-1:20
W 9:30-11:20

Instructor: Benjamin Hill
StvH 3142:
519-661-2111 x80143
Office Hours: T, 1:30-2:20pm
Th, 9:30-10:20pm
Email: Please use OWL
Emergency: bhill28@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

Nothing we do day-in, day-out is as value-laden as eating; we have greater moral impact on others, on our community, and on our world through our relationship with food than with anything else, except for familial and intimate relationships. Yet those values contained within or implicated by our food are almost always hidden from us, and almost always it seems by design. This course is meant to be an intensely immersive experience exploring and challenging food values, both the food values of our society as well as your own food values. The aim is to develop the students' abilities to think critically and philosophically about their food choices and the connections between their food choices and our food system(s). Issues dealt with in the course may include, for example, human rights, food justice, the treatment of animals, the environment, moral and political dimensions of genetically modified food, hunger and obligation to the poor, the role of food in gender, personal and national identity, the role of food in shaping our community, and the role food plays in living the good life. The course is an "active learning" course, which aims to do this through philosophical discussions and investigative assignments.

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

WARNING

This course will require frequent, sometimes personal, and extended discussions of food, an individual's relationship with food, and the role food does, can, or should play in one's life. Individuals with a history of eating disorders may find the material and the course difficult and traumatic.

- (A) 10% will be based on the group's overall grade for the project, the peer assessments of the student's contributions to the project, the public poster presentation of the group's project.
- (B) 15% will be based on an individual's specific contributions to the final technical report and poster. The project will be divided into subprojects and individual students will be primarily responsible for a set of subprojects. (This will be described in the Project Guidelines.) Individual students will submit their own contributions to the final project via OWL.
- (C) 15% will be based on an individual's specific contribution to the research component of the project. The due date and content of each subproject will be described in the Project Guidelines.

The idea behind this breakdown in the grading is to allow each student's grade to be largely determined by his/her own activity and to allow each student to be accountable for his/her contributions to the project. Yet it still incentivizes group activity and collaboration on putting the project together. This will be spelled out in greater detail in the assignment rubric and guidelines.

Book Review (25%) All students are required to write a 1000 word *critical* book review of *The Third Plate* by Dan Barber. The due date is Wednesday Nov 2 at 11:55 pm. The review should describe the thesis and main argument(s) of the book as well as provide some reflective, critical

Homework and Assignments (10%) There will be weekly quizzes self-administered via OWL and occasional homework or in-class assignments to be submitted for grading. The weekly quizzes will be short, timed quizzes covering material taken directly from class or the assigned reading. The quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blanks, or short answer (max 1-2 sentences). The OWL quiz portal will open at 6:00 pm on Wednesday following a week of classes and will close at 6:00 pm on Friday. (Reading week will be the only exception.) Any additional graded homework or in-class assignments will be announced in class and posted on OWL.

CEL *Optional Component* (EXTRA CREDIT UP TO 05%) Students have the opportunity to participate in a Community Engaged Learning partnership in the course. Community Engaged Learning at Western partners with local and international organizations to mobilize knowledge and exchange resources in order to address critical societal issues. By engaging students, staff, and faculty in meaningful experiential learning opportunities, CEL helps meet community defined needs while promoting students' sense of civic engagement and social responsibility. These partnerships help extend Western's reach beyond campus and foster excellence and innovation in teaching and learning. The CEL opportunity is project-based, where students will work in groups of 3-5 to complete a deliverable defined by the community partner. Students will be expected to complete 2 hours per week for 8 weeks. Further details describing the opportunities and the requirements will be posted on our class OWL site and presented in class. Extra Credit up to 05% will be awarded based on successful completion of the engagement with the community partner and submission of a satisfactory concrete deliverable to the community partner.

Attendance (10%) All students are required to attend every class. A sign-distributed. Attendance does not connote mere physical presence in the classroom. It requires paying attention and not engaging in rude, disruptive, or disrespectful behavior during the class. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to: texting, checking email, reading the newspaper, reading material for another class, chatting or joking during class, surfing the internet, internet shopping, etc.. The instructor reserves the right to strike any person's name from the attendance roll for engaging in the above, or any other such disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Students are awarded 2.70 points per hour of class attended. **To request that an**

week of classes.