



# CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE		
<b>TERM:</b> FALL 2024	<b>COURSE NO:</b> PHIL 105	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE:</b> Philosophy and Current Events	
<b>OFFICE:</b> LOCAL: <b>E-MAIL:</b> @capilanou.ca	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b>	<b>CREDITS:</b> 3.0
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE:</b> See eLearn		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat7úl (Lil'wat), x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-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/CO-REQUISITES

None

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The events of contemporary life often raise significant ethical, epistemic, metaphysical, or political problems, which philosophy can help us to better understand and address. This introductory philosophy course applies philosophical thinking to issues arising from current events. Specific topics will vary from year to year, but will aim to reflect issues at the forefront of public discourse. These may include topics such as the ethical and epistemic consequences of technological changes, the aesthetic or political dimensions of art and artists, the politics of identity and identifying, the rise of internet trolls, 'cancel culture,' populism, and the return of fascism.

## COURSE NOTE

PHIL 105 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

All required texts will be available on eLearn.

## COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Explain the key philosophical concepts in aesthetics, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, and political theory covered in the course.

2. Explain the relevance of these philosophical concepts to current events including technological, moral, and political developments.
3. Critically discuss philosophical questions relating to these current events.
4. Critically reflect on common assumptions about current events, including the students' own values or beliefs.

**Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:**

1. Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
2. Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
3. Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
4. Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

**COURSE CONTENT**

Sample topics are listed below, but may vary by instructor.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
	<b><i>Technological Developments</i></b>
1	The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
2	Epistemology & Algorithms
3	Misinformation & the Ethics of Rationality
4	Ethics, Epistemology, & Trolls
5	The Ethics & Politics of 'Cancel Culture'
	<b><i>Moral Developments</i></b>
6	Re-evaluating the Past: Monuments
7	Re-evaluating the Past: Immoral Artists
8	Reconciliation & Decolonization
	<b><i>Political Developments</i></b>
9	The Ethics & Politics of Sex & Gender
10	Identity Terms & Identity Politics
11	Populism
12	The New Faces of Fascism
13	<i>Conclusion</i>
14 & 15	Final Exam Period

**EVALUATION PROFILE**

Written Assignments	20–40%*
Project	20–40%*
Tests and Quizzes	0–40%*

Participation	0–10%
Presentations	0–20%
Final Exam	<u>20–35%</u>
	100%

\*Note: No single assignment will be worth more than 35% of the final grade.

## ASSIGNMENTS

The assignment descriptions for this course will be determined by the instructor in accordance with the learning outcomes and structure outlined above. Please refer to the course syllabus and eLearn site for a detailed breakdown.

### Written Assignments

Written Assignments may include reflective essays, weekly reading responses, etc.

### Tests and Quizzes

This course may include a combination of quizzes and tests (e.g. pop quiz, midterm exam). The format of tests and quizzes will be determined by the instructor and may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay questions.

### Presentations

This course may include a presentation component, which may be an individual or group assignment (e.g. in-class debate, academic poster, research presentation). Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on eLearn.

### Participation

Participation grades are based on the consistency and quality of contributions to class discussions and will be assessed through in-class activities related to the class's learning outcomes. Consistency means attending class, maintaining a respectful presence, collaborating with peers, and actively contributing to discussions and activities on a regular basis. Quality pertains to the products of in-class activities.

### Final Exam

The course will include a final exam that may be drawn from all class materials. The final exam may be cumulative (please consult with your instructor). The final exam will be scheduled at a date to be determined by the Registrar's Office. Please plan to be available to write the final exam at any point during the final exam period. If you must make travel arrangements, assume that the final exam will be held on the final day of the exam period, and plan accordingly.

## 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**

Assignment submission guidelines, deadlines, and late penalties are determined by the instructor. In general, assignments will be submitted electronically via eLearn or by hard copy in-class (consult with your instructor for their preference). Assignments submitted late may be subject to late penalties, except in extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical or family emergency). Please contact your instructor as soon as possible if such an unfortunate situation occurs. Official documentation (e.g. doctor's note) may be required for any extension to be granted.

**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. Please consult with your instructor.

\*\*\* Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities. Students not attending class regularly will be at a considerable disadvantage. Official university policy on attendance is found in the University Calendar.

**English Usage**

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

**Electronic Devices**

Students may use electronic devices during class for note taking only. Personal electronic devices (laptops, tablets, e-readers, etc.) may not be used during a quiz or exam without prior approval. Any use of cellphones, smartphones, or other distractions is strictly prohibited. These must be silenced and stored for the duration of the quiz/exam period. Students requiring exam accommodations must register with Accessibility Services.

**On-line Communication**

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

**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-services/>

**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.capilanou.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.