

PHIL 1611: SELF, SOCIETY, FREEDOM – FALL 2020

Instructor: Dr. Jane Dryden

jdryden@mta.ca

506-364-2340 (if you leave a message, it will forward to my email)

Office hours to be announced (you can schedule time to talk at calendly.com/jdrydenmta).

Note: The land on which Mount Allison sits (and where many of us will be situated) is the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. While this area is known as Sackville, NB the territory is part of the greater territory of Mi'kma'ki.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

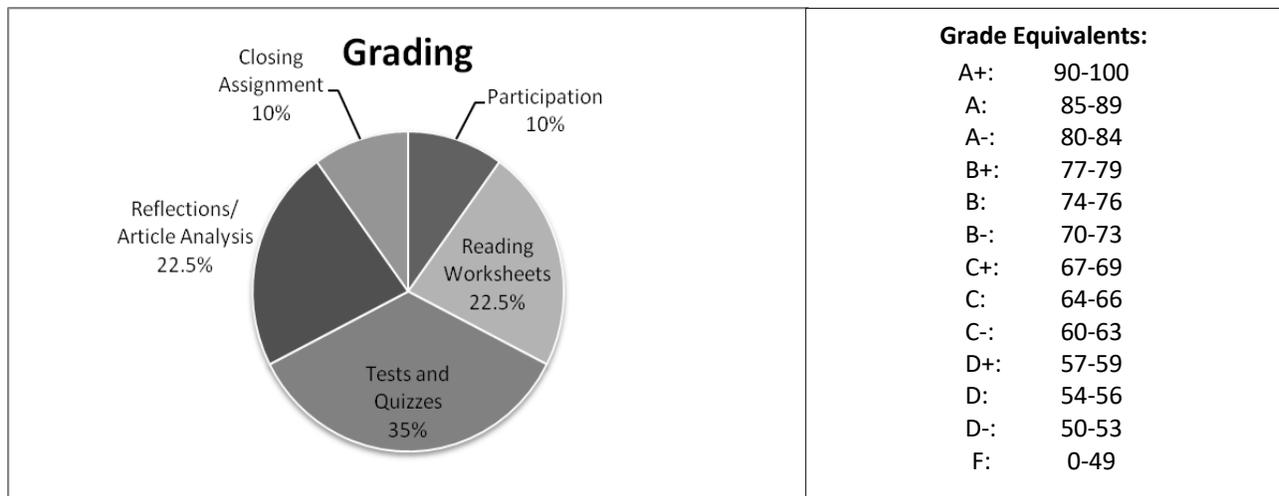
What's a self? Am I my mind or my body, or both? What are the boundaries of my "self" – what's included or excluded? How do people see me, and how do they affect my sense of self? How should I live in a way that reflects my values, goals, and commitments? (Bonus: do animals have selves? are they persons?)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All materials will be posted to Moodle. Save copies of texts, in case Moodle goes down.

GRADING:

Participation	- 10%
Module 1 – 10%	
Nozick Reading Worksheet	- 5%
Opening Quiz	- 5%
Module 2 – 20%	
Reading Worksheets	- 5% (2 x 2.5% each)
Reflection	- 5%
Test	- 10%
Module 3 – 25%	
Reading Worksheets	- 5% (2 x 2.5% each)
Article Analysis	- 10%
Test	- 10%
Module 4 – 25%	
Reading Worksheets	- 7.5% (3 x 2.5% each)
Reflection Assignment	- 7.5%
Test	- 10%
Closing Assignment	- 10%
Bonus Module (Optional!)	- replaces previous lowest mark.



COURSE DEADLINE:

All work must be submitted no later than **Monday, December 7**.

- Moodle will indicate earlier deadlines for assignments. These are intended to *encourage* you to submit work by that time in order to pace yourself. You can still submit work after that deadline (the submission link will still work).
- There is a suggested schedule at the end of this document.
- Please email me before December 7 if you have any difficulties with this deadline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PARTICIPATION (10%)

There are two main ways of earning these marks!

Moodle Discussion Forum:

- I encourage you to participate in the course discussion forums on Moodle. There is one for each module, as well as a final one at the end (under “Closing Assignment”). The bonus module also has an optional forum.
- You should make at least one comment in Module 1 and in the “Closing assignment” forum. In Modules 2, 3, and 4, you should make at least 3 comments each – these can be new comments (starting new threads), or replies to other people’s comments.
- Doing all of this will get you 10/10 for participation. Comments must be made by Dec. 7.

Alternate Modes of Participation:

- You can also participate in other ways. For example, you could make an art work that explores or illustrates a concept from the course. There is a list of possible activities on Moodle, in the file called “Alternate Modes of Participation Instructions.”

- You can earn additional marks (or make up for in-class writing assignments you may have missed) by completing a range of activities, as listed in the instructions on Moodle. Start working on them as early as possible. Doing this regularly will help you in your understanding of the material and concepts. You will also have a chance to receive feedback.
- All material for these alternate modes of participation must be submitted by December 7 (I **strongly recommend** not leaving it to then, especially if you would like feedback about your submission).

READING WORKSHEETS (22.5% TOTAL)

- Before you do each reading, you should download the accompanying **reading worksheet**. This will give you an idea of what to look for in the reading. (You should also watch the “introduction” lectures for each reading for more background before you start, but you don’t get a grade for that.)
- When you finish the reading, you should fill out the reading worksheet and submit it to Moodle. The Nozick worksheet is worth 5% of your final grade, and the rest are worth 2.5% each. (The Nozick one is worth more to encourage you to get started!)

TESTS AND QUIZZES (35% TOTAL):

- At the end of Module 1 is a quiz (worth 5%) and at the end of Modules 2, 3, and 4 there are tests (worth 10% each). These will be online on Moodle. More instructions to come.
- If something goes wrong when you are writing a test, please let me know by email as soon as possible.
- You have the option of arranging to have an oral test instead of a written test. Please email me with at least a week’s notice before doing this so that I can schedule you in. An oral test will take around 45 minutes, and would take place over Teams.

REFLECTIONS / ARTICLE ANALYSIS (22.5% TOTAL):

- Modules may also require you to finish either a reflection assignment or an article analysis. Full instructions for these will be found on Moodle in the appropriate module.

CLOSING ASSIGNMENT (WORTH 10%):

- At the end of the course, I’d like you to show me what the **main thing you learned from the course** was. You should make use of material/ideas from at least two modules.
- You can choose to write a paper, do a creative project, write a dialogue, put together a podcast or video, make a website – whatever you think will best convey what you learned.
- More instructions are on Moodle in the “Closing Assignment” tile.

BONUS MODULE:

- The bonus module includes three readings and a reflection assignment. Whatever grade you get on the reflection assignment will replace your lowest test, article analysis, or other reflection.

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION:

- If you have questions about the course, assignments, tests, expectations, etc., I encourage you to ask them in the “Got a question?” forum. Chances are very good that someone else in the class will have the same question, and this way your question helps others!
- You are also welcome to email me, especially if you want to know something more specific to you (such as how you can do better in the class). (When you email: you can call me “Dr. Dryden” or “Prof. Dryden” – please don’t just call me “hey prof.”)
- Please be aware that I don’t generally check email after 6pm on weekdays and tend not to check frequently on weekends – so don’t worry if I don’t reply immediately. If it’s not the weekend, and I haven’t gotten back to you within 24 hours or so, go ahead and send me a follow-up message – sometimes emails go missing, or I get a whole bunch at once and don’t manage to catch up with all of them.

ACCESSIBILITY AND SUPPORT:

- Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make the course more accessible to you, or if there is anything that it is useful for me to know about your learning style or life circumstances which may affect your performance in the course (I don’t want to be nosy – just a heads up is useful!). Reading philosophy and writing about philosophy is difficult; but the structure of the course itself should not be a barrier to your learning.
- There are two TAs for the course who will be doing some grading as well as monitoring the discussion boards. Please feel free to ask them questions!
- Formal accommodations for disabilities of any kind (including learning disabilities, ADHD, mental and physical health conditions) should be arranged through the Meighen Centre as soon as possible in the semester (Information is available at <http://www.mta.ca/meighen/>). Counseling services are available through the Wellness Centre. The Mount Allison Chaplain is also available for crisis counselling and grief support, regardless of your religious background or beliefs.
- The Office of Academic Support is there to help you – they run the Writing Centre as well as study skills workshops and other programming. https://www.mta.ca/Community/Student_services/Academic_support/Academic_support/

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- There is an academic integrity policy at Mount Allison:
https://www.mta.ca/Registrars_Office/Academic_regulations/Academic_integrity/Academic_integrity/. Instructions for avoiding plagiarism are available at the library website at http://libraryguides.mta.ca/research_help/academic_integrity.
- Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about whether your use or citation of material is appropriate. It is important to learn how to do your academic work properly, but when you are first learning it can seem confusing: I'd rather answer your questions ahead of time than have to penalize you afterward.
- If you do plagiarize on an assignment, or do any of the other things that count as "Academic Dishonesty" in the Mount Allison Academic Integrity Policy, you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

COURSE CONTENT & MODULE STRUCTURE:

Module	Lecture Videos from Dr. Dryden	Readings and External Videos	Required Activities
1: Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome video Basic terms in philosophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zara Bain, "How to Read Philosophy" Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nozick reading worksheet Opening quiz (about syllabus, reading philosophy, and Nozick). Post to discussion board
2: Individual Self in History of Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic overview for the module Descartes Intro Descartes continued Locke Intro Locke continued Summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> René Descartes, Meditation 2 from <i>Meditations</i> (use original text on Moodle or simplified text). John Locke, "Of Identity and Difference" from <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (use original text or simplified text – p. 112 on this PDF). Descartes video TBA Locke video TBA Possible Aristotle video TBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descartes reading worksheet Locke reading worksheet Post to discussion board (x3) Reflection Test
3: Relational Selves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic overview Meyers Intro Meyers continued Heldke Intro Gordon Summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diana Meyers, "Decentering Autonomy: Five Faces of Selfhood" Lisa Heldke, "It's Chomping All the Way Down: Toward an Ontology of the Human Individual" Lewis Gordon, video "Being Human as a Relationship" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meyers reading worksheet Heldke reading worksheet Article analysis for <i>either</i> Meyers or Heldke Post to discussion board (x3) Test

Module	Lecture Videos from Dr. Dryden	Readings and External Videos	Required Activities
4: How to Live & Interpret Your World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic overview • Epictetus Intro • Epictetus Discussion • Sartre Intro • Sartre Discussion • Lugones Intro • Lugones Discussion • Summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epictetus, <i>The Enchiridion</i> (Elizabeth Carter trans.) • Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism" • Maria Lugones, "Playfulness, 'World'-Travelling, and Loving Perception" • Epictetus video • Sartre video • Lugones video TBA • Stoicism website TBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epictetus reading worksheet • Sartre reading worksheet • Lugones reading worksheet • Post to discussion board (x3) • Reflection assignment • Test
BONUS: Animals as selves and persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic overview • Descartes video • Chimpanzee brief intro • Chimpanzee discussion • Robinson intro • Robinson discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • René Descartes, excerpt from Discourse on the Method, part 5. • Philosopher's Brief on Chimpanzee Personhood • Margaret Robinson, "Animal Personhood in Mi'kmaq Perspective" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post to discussion board (x3) • Reflection assignment
Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing video and review 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Assignment

When you have readings to do: I recommend the following steps to approaching each reading:

1. Watch the "intro" video from me.
2. Download the Reading Worksheet and skim through it.
3. Do the reading (recall Zara Bain's advice for reading philosophy)!
4. Watch the "continued" video from me.
5. Fill out the Reading Worksheet.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

This course can go at your own pace, and you can work through the material as quickly or slowly as you like. Here is a **suggested schedule**, to help you to pace yourself.

Week 1 (September 8-11) (September 7 = Labour Day)

Start Module 1 (Intro Module)

- watch and read material
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 2 (September 14-18)

Continue Module 1

- fill out reading worksheet for Nozick
- post at least once to discussion board
- do Module 1 quiz at the end of the week.

Week 3 (September 21-25)

Start Module 2

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Descartes
- post at least once to discussion board, or consider doing an alternate participation assignment.

Week 4 (September 28-October 2)

Continue Module 2

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Locke
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 5 (October 5-9)

Finish Module 2

- review material
- complete reflection assignment
- review discussion board posts; post a question or response
- write Module 2 test

Week 6 (October 13-16) (October 12 = Thanksgiving Day)

Start Module 3

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Meyers
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 7 (October 19-23)

Continue Module 3

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Heldke
- start article analysis
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 8 (October 26-30)

Finish Module 3

- finish article analysis
- review material
- review discussion board posts; post questions or answers
- write Module 3 test

Week 9 (November 2-5)

Start Module 4

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Epictetus
- fill out reading worksheet for Sartre
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 10 (November 9-13) (November 11 = Remembrance Day)

Continue Module 4

- watch and read material
- fill out reading worksheet for Lugones
- start reflection assignment
- post at least once to discussion board

Week 11 (November 16-20)

Finish Module 4

- finish reflection assignment
- review material
- review discussion board posts; post questions
- write Module 4 test

Week 12 (November 23-27)

- start working on Closing Assignment
- meet with Dr. Dryden about ideas for Closing Assignment
- consider doing **Bonus Module**

Week 13 (November 30-December 2)

- work on Bonus Module, if applicable.
- work on Closing Assignment

Closing assignment due Monday, December 7 (unless you are doing a presentation & have booked some particular time to present it to me – in which case, that is the due date!)