

## Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

**Course Title:** Reality & What We Can Know of It

**Course Number and Section**

PHILOSOPHY

1350F - 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Emerson Doyle

**Instructor Email(s):** edoyle9@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

In this age of fake news, climate change denial, global pandemics, anti-vaxxers, and our political and social leaders becoming ever-more willing to stretch the truth or deny facts outright, the study of epistemology and metaphysics is ever-more relevant. Many of these issues, and much of what we take ourselves to “know” about reality in general, depend upon fundamental but often unexamined philosophical assumptions. Should we trust an expert’s testimony or predictions? Can we trust our memories and perceptions? Our intuitions? Logic and mathematics? Science or faith? Can we be sure beliefs formed by these methods correspond to reality? Just what is real? Perhaps this is all a dream? From where do logical and ethical truths arise? We assume we have free will, that there are other minds, scientific facts, an external world—but how can we be sure? Such assumptions help us to make sense of our lives, but quickly evaporate upon philosophical reflection.

In this course we will examine some of these questions and the philosophical issues at their foundations. Our goal is to equip ourselves with tools and conceptual frameworks useful for navigating these issues, that we may attentively confront the realities of our modern age.

### Learning Outcomes:

Students should finish the course with an appreciation of just how much our daily affairs are underpinned by philosophical convictions, as well as the means to critically evaluate those convictions.

Students will also have the opportunity to improve their writing, critical analysis, and argumentative abilities.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Course readings will be posted on OWL.

### Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Active Learning Activities	In-class, Various dates	10%
First Writing Assignment	October 4	15%
Second Writing Assignment	October 25th	15%

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date mm/dd/yy</b>	<b>Weight - %</b>
Argumentative Essay	November 20th	25%
Third Writing Assignment	December 6th	5%
Final Exam	Exam Period	30%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.