

(Advanced) Topics in Philosophy  
Hope and Despair | Spring 2021  
PHIL 490 A03 (CRN: 22304) | PHIL 500 A03 (CRN: 22307)

What is hope, and what can we justifiably hope for in an unjust and increasingly uncertain world? Although hope had not received much attention until recently, philosophers interested in desire, emotion, motivation, and how we should feel in an unjust and increasingly uncertain world have been drawn to the philosophy of hope. This course explores philosophical literature on the nature of hope, despair, and related states as they bear on our personal and political lives.

**Territory Acknowledgement:** The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the University stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for Indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement.

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)
<b>Student Hours (by Zoom)</b>	By appointment only. Please feel free to request an appointment by email and I will set up a meeting.
<b>Communication</b>	I aim to reply to all student emails within 24 hours, though please keep in mind that I check my email during regular work hours (not evenings or weekends). My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronouns as well.
<b>Website</b>	Brightspace.
<b>Course Format</b>	This course is <i>synchronous</i> . We will meet every Monday and Thursday from 11:30am-12:50pm PST on Zoom.
<b>Readings/Required Material</b>	All required readings and suggested materials will be available on the course website.

*Evaluation:*

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<b>Grading Scale<sup>1</sup></b>	A (Superior performance) B (Good performance) C (Adequate performance) D (Minimal performance) F (Inadequate performance)	A+: 90-100; A: 85-89; A-: 80-84 B+: 77-79; B: 73-76; B-: 70-72 C+: 65-69; C: 60-64 50-59 0-49
<b>Assignments<sup>2</sup></b>	Participation Commentaries (x3) (15% each) Paper Proposal Final Paper	15% Throughout the course. 45% Throughout the course. 5% April 1, 11:59pm PST 35% April 19, 11:59pm PST
<b>Flexibility, Lateness, &amp; Extensions</b>	Please email me as soon as possible if you are facing challenges to completing course requirements by the due dates.	

*University & Course Policies:*

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<b>Accessibility</b>	Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible. Staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Academic Integrity</b>	Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.  <u>The responsibility of the institution</u> Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.  <u>The responsibility of the student</u>

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<sup>1</sup> For further detail, see <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-05/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Detailed instructions on all assignments will be posted to the course website.

<sup>3</sup> For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.<sup>4</sup> Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

Note that the University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor for your written assignment without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are all examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.<sup>5</sup>

**Copyright &  
Intellectual  
Property**

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.<sup>6</sup> Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).<sup>7</sup> Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

**Online  
Student  
Conduct**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience, and the responsibility to help create, such an environment. *The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.*

Please be advised that by logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct, may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy. To report concerns about online student conduct: [onlineconduct@uvic.ca](mailto:onlineconduct@uvic.ca).

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<sup>4</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>

<sup>5</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

<sup>7</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

**Course Schedule**<sup>8</sup>: All readings are required unless they are marked as “suggested.” *Note that I may make minor changes to the reading schedule. Students will be notified of any changes in class and on the course website.*

W1: Jan. 11 W1: Jan. 14	<b><i>Welcome!</i></b> <b><i>The Standard Account</i></b>	<i>Introductions.</i> R.S. Downie, “Hope” J.P Day, “Hope” <i>Suggested: J.M.O Wheatley, “Wishing and Hoping”</i>
W2: Jan. 18 W2: Jan. 21	<b><i>Mental Imaging &amp; Cognitive Resolve</i></b>	Luc Bovens, “The Value of Hope” Philip Pettit, “Hope and its Place in Mind”
W3: Jan. 25  W3: Jan. 28	<b><i>The External Factor Account &amp; Hope as Incorporation</i></b>	Ariel Meirav, “The Nature of Hope” <i>Suggested (strongly):</i> Adrienne M. Martin, “Beyond the Orthodox Definition of Hope” Adrienne M. Martin, “Incorporation”
W4: Feb. 1  W4: Feb. 4	<b><i>The Perceptual Theory</i></b>  <b><i>Back to the Standard Account</i></b>	Michael Milona and Katie Stockdale, “A Perceptual Theory of Hope” Michael Milona, “Finding Hope” <i>Guest visit: Prof. Michael Milona (!!)</i>
W5: Feb. 8  W5: Feb. 11	<b><i>Hoping Well</i></b>	<b><i>Last chance: Commentary #1.</i></b> Victoria McGeer, “The Art of Good Hope” Katie Stockdale, “The Value and Risks of Hope” <i>Suggested: Claudia Bloser and Titus Stahl, “Fundamental Hope and Practical identity”</i>
W6: Feb. 15-19	<b><i>READING BREAK</i></b>	<i>Self-care.</i>
W7: Feb. 22 W7: Feb. 25	<b><i>Optimism &amp; Pessimism</i></b>	Valerie Tiberius, “Optimism” Lisa Tessman, “Expecting Bad Luck” <i>Suggested: Derrick Bell, “Racial Realism”</i> <i>Suggested: Ta-Nehisi Coates, “Hope and the Historian”</i>

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<sup>8</sup> I may make minor changes as we go, so Brightspace is the most up to date version of the schedule.

W8: Mar. 1	<b><i>Losing Hope, Grappling with Despair</i></b> <b><i>Political Hope (and More Despair)</i></b>	Matthew Ratcliffe, "What is it to Lose Hope?"
W8: Mar. 4		Martin Luther King Jr., "Shattered Dreams"
W9: Mar. 8		Vincent Lloyd, "For What are Whites to Hope?" Derrick Bell, "Beyond Despair" <b><i>Last chance: Commentary # 2.</i></b> Jakob Huber, "Defying Democratic Despair: A Kantian Account of Hope in Politics"
W9: Mar. 11	<b><i>Extraordinary Hopes</i></b>	Margaret Urban Walker, "Hope(s) After Genocide"
W10: Mar. 15		Darrel Moellendorf, "Hope for Material Progress in the Age of the Anthropocene" <i>Suggested:</i> Mary Annaise Heglar, "Home is Always Worth It" <i>Suggested:</i> Rebecca Solnit, "Don't Despair: The Climate Fight is only Over if You Think it is" <i>Suggested:</i> Kate Marvel, "We Need Courage, Not Hope, to Face Climate Change"
W10: Mar. 18		Anne Jeffrey, "Does Hope Morally Vindicate Faith?" Paulo Freire, "My Hope and Faith"
W11: Mar. 22	<b><i>Hope &amp; Faith</i></b>	Robert Adams, "Moral Faith"
W11: Mar. 25		Annette Baier, "Secular Faith"
W12: Mar. 29		Ryan Preston-Roedder, "Faith in Humanity" Michele M. Moody-Adams, "Moral Progress and Human Agency"
W12: Apr. 1		<b><i>Final Paper Proposal Due.</i></b> Regina Rini, "Epoch Relativism and Our Moral Hopelessness"
W13: Apr. 5	<b><i>EASTER MONDAY.</i></b> <b><i>Hope, Faith, &amp; Collective Action</i></b>	<i>No class.</i>
W13: Apr. 8		<b><i>Last chance: Commentary # 3.</i></b> Katie Stockdale, "Hope, Faith, and Solidarity" <i>Suggested podcast:</i> Ezra Klein, "Why Ta-Nehisi Coates is Hopeful" <i>Suggested reading:</i> Kelly Hayes, "Standing Rock and the Power and Determination of Indigenous America"
W14: Apr. 12		<i>Writing workshop.</i>

