

PHIL 490/500 (A02) | Spring 2023
(Advanced) Topics in Philosophy: Hope and Despair
Mon & Thurs, 2:30-3:50, Human and Social Development, A250
CRN: 22586/22588



What is hope, and what can we justifiably hope for in our personal and political lives? This course explores contemporary philosophical literature on hope, despair, and related states. It surveys prominent accounts of the nature of hope, the rationality and morality of hope, and what it looks like to lose hope and struggle with despair. Throughout the course, students will apply their understanding of the nature and value of hope to a range of applied topics, such as the pursuit of social justice and hope's role in our global fight against climate change.



Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:00, and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.



You are welcome to visit me in office hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please feel free to email me to request an appointment (in person or by Zoom). I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours but note that I generally do not reply to emails on evenings or weekends. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronouns as well.



This course is *in-person only*. Class attendance is required, and lectures will not be recorded.



Our course website is on Brightspace.



All required readings will be available on the course website.

Territory Acknowledgement: We acknowledge and respect the ɫəkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Evaluation¹:



A	B	C	D	F
Superior 90-100 (A+) 85-89 (A) 80-84 (A-)	Good 77-79 (B+) 73-76 (B) 70-72 (B-)	Adequate 65-69 (C+) 60-64 (C)	Minimal 50-59	Inadequate 0-49



Engagement	15%
Critical Response Paper 1	20%
Critical Response Paper 2	20%
Final Paper Proposal	15%
Final Paper	30%



All students have one no-questions-asked extension to use on any assignment. Extensions are for 3 days following the deadline. *You do not need to ask whether you may use your free extension.* Just write 'free extension' at the top of your assignment and hand it in by the extended deadline. After the free extension is used, I will not grant extensions with the exception of serious illness or personal emergency (e.g., hospitalization; death of closed loved one). All other late assignments will receive a deduction of 5% per day (including weekend days).

Course Policies:



Accessibility: 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.²



Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic 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.

¹ For further detail, see <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/S1AAgoGuV>

² For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

The responsibility of the institution

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.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the student's responsibility to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.³ Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension. The University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor for your assignment without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.⁴



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.⁵ Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).⁶ Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.



The University 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.

³ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

⁵ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

⁶ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

Course schedule: Students will be notified of any changes on the course website and in class.

Welcome!	W1: Jan. 9	Introduction to the Course.
The Standard Account	W1: Jan. 12	R.S. Downie, "Hope" J.P. Day, "Hope"
Mental Imaging & Cognitive Resolve	W2: Jan. 16 W2: Jan. 19	Luc Bovens, "The Value of Hope" Philip Pettit, "Hope and its Place in Mind"
External Factor & Incorporation	W3: Jan. 23 W3: Jan. 26	Ariel Meirav, "The Nature of Hope" Adrienne M. Martin, "Incorporation"
The Perceptual Theory	W4: Jan. 30 W4: Feb. 2	Michael Milona and Katie Stockdale, "A Perceptual Theory of Hope" Michael Milona, "Finding Hope"
Evaluating Hope	W5: Feb. 6 W5: Feb. 9	Victoria McGeer, "The Art of Good Hope" Katie Stockdale, "The Value and Risks of Hope"
Optimism & Pessimism	W6: Feb. 13 W6: Feb. 16	Valerie Tiberius, "Optimism" Lisa Tessman, "Expecting Bad Luck"
	W7: Feb. 20-3	FAMILY DAY/READING BREAK
Losing Hope, Grappling With Despair	W8: Feb. 27 W8: Mar. 2	Matthew Ratcliffe, "What is it to Lose Hope?" Jakob Huber, "Hope from Despair"
Extraordinary Hopes	W9: Mar. 6 W9: Mar. 9	Darrel Moellendorf, "Hope and Anxiety at the End of Nature" Margaret Urban Walker, "Hope(s) After Genocide"
Hope & Faith	W10: Mar. 13 W10: Mar. 16	Robert Adams, "Moral Faith" Ryan Preston-Roedder, "Faith in Humanity"
Hopelessness about Humanity	W11: Mar. 20 W11: Mar. 23	James Fritz, "Ethics and Epistemic Hopelessness" Regina Rini, "Epoch Relativism and Our Moral Hopelessness"
Moral Progress & Struggle	W12: Mar. 27 W12: Mar. 30	Michele Moody-Adams, "Moral Progress and Human Agency" Kathryn Norlock, "Perpetual Struggle"
	W13: Apr. 3 W13: Apr. 6	TBD by class. Writing Workshop.