Philosophy 290
Philosophy and Science Fiction
January 2020

Instructor: E-H.W. Kluge
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Office Hours: Mondays 10 – 11 am, Thursdays 1-2 pm and by appointment.

Texts: Course pack

**Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures**
There will be two non-cumulative examinations (a mid-term and a final), each worth 25% of the course mark. Each examination will be one hour in length. Additionally, there will be two short papers (five page maximum, double-spaced, Times-Roman font, standard format) each worth 25% of the course grade, topics to be arranged in consultation with the instructor. Students are encouraged to decide early on their paper topics.

Since this is a very concentrated course, students are expected to have read and become familiar with the assigned material prior to its presentation and discussion in class.

**Significant dates:**
- final examination: scheduled by the university
Papers: - first paper is due Feb. 7
- second paper is due Mar. 19

Exceptions from course requirements, adjustments for taking examinations at set examination dates, due-time for the paper, etc. will only be made in accordance with UVic regulations as published in the Calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to acquaint themselves and significant others with this fact so that vacations, family reunions, weddings etc. can be planned accordingly. The Mid-term examination and papers will be returned as soon as they are graded. Final examinations are the property of the University and will not be returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office at a time designated by the University.

Approximately one-half the material in the syllabus will be covered by Feb. 24. No more precise a time-frame is possible since the amount of time spent on each topic depends on the interests of the students in the course and on the issues that arise.

**Grading**
Marks will be assigned on a letter basis and may be converted to a percentile grade as follows:
100 - 90 = A+, 90 - 85 = A, 85 - 80 = A-, 80 - 75 = B+, 75 - 70 = B,
70 - 65 = B-, 65 - 60 = C+, 60 - 55 = C, 55 - 50 = D, 50 - 0 = F.
Students are encouraged to discuss their examinations and papers with the instructor.

**Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity**

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

**TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**I. Persons**

**approx. Jan 6- Jan 20**

*Science Fiction*

*Philosophy*

*Optional*
- suggested movie for possible essay topic: *50 First Dates*
- John Campbell, “What do You Mean ... Human?”

**II. Experimentation**

**approx.. Jan. 23 – Jan 27.**

*Science Fiction*

*Philosophy*

**III. Reality and Perception**

**approx. Jan. 30 – Feb. 10**

*Science Fiction*

**Philosophy**
- G. Berkeley, On the Principles of Human Knowledge

**Optional Reading**

**Mid-term Examination: Feb. 13**

**IV. Language** approx. Feb. 24 - Feb. 27

**Science Fiction**
- JL Borges,"Funes the Memorious”

**Philosophy**

**V. Religion** approx. Mar. 2 – Mar. 12

**Science Fiction**

**Philosophy**
- St. Thomas Aquinas, “Whether the Human Soul is Incorruptible,” in Summa Theologica Question LXXV article 6

VI. Ethics Mar. 19 – Mar. 26

a. Responsibility and punishment
Science Fiction

Philosophy
- James Rachels, “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism” (307)

b. Deliberate Death
Science Fiction

Philosophy

VII. Review approx. Mar. 30 – Apr. 2

If time permits:

Politics and Power
Science Fiction
1. U LeGuin, The Dispossessed
2. DE Westlake, Anarchaos

Philosophy
4. T Hobbs, Leviathan
5. M. Djilas, *The New Class*