

PROCLAMATION.

EDUCATIONAL DECREE



15PHIL2080

Philosophical Themes
at
Hogwarts

WILL **MEET** IN 043 McMICKEN HALL

ON TUESDAYS AND *THURSDAYS* FROM

9³⁰ *until* 10⁵⁰pm

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THOMAS WILLIAM POLGER

Has Been APPOINTED to the POST of
HEADMASTER OF HOGWARTS
and PROFESSOR of this Class

with office hours:

Department of Philosophy, 206B McMICKEN

Tuesdays, 10⁵⁰-11³⁰; *and by appointment*

("Help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it.")

THOMAS.POLGER@UC.EDU

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 No. **16**

All STUDENTS must *acquire* the texts:

*THE ULTIMATE HARRY POTTER AND
PHILOSOPHY: HOGWARTS FOR MUGGLES*

plus

LOTS OF OTHER READINGS

via Blackboard

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 No. **35**

students are hereby directed to achieve the

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

for this class:

DEVELOP FAMILIARITY with PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES
practice reading and analyzing philosophical texts

formulate and evaluate their own

**PHILOSOPHICAL
REASONING**

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 No. **46**

STUDENTS WILL BE SORTED into houses:

Gryffindor

Hufflepuff

Ravenclaw

Slytherin

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ACTIVITIES and **Grades** have been approved
by the MINISTRY and
HEADMASTER.

There will be 5 **individual assignments**
and 1 HOUSE assignment.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

1 very short scroll;
3 Quizzes (including one practice quiz);
and 1 long scroll

HOUSE ASSIGNMENTS

1 Quidditch Tournament

For **DETAILS** see the addendum to **EDUCATIONAL DECREE No. 47**

ADDENDUM.

TO EDUCATIONAL DECREE No. 47

Individual Assignments <i>with scheduled due dates</i>		House Assignment	
Practice Quiz Sept 13	10%	Quidditch Tournament Dec 4-6	20%
Very Short Scroll Sept 20	15%		
O.W.L. Quiz #1 Oct 4	15%		
O.W.L. Quiz #2 Nov 8	15%	House Points	Extra credit
Long Scroll Dec 12	25%		

QUIZZES. There will be one low-stakes practice quiz and two substantial quizzes, completed in class and taking less than half of the class time. Additional quizzes may be added if student participation and/or preparation is found wanting.

VERY SHORT SCROLL. Each student will select one magical phenomenon or object not already scheduled for classroom discussion, and write a short scroll of about 22 inches (500 words, 2 pages typed and double-spaced) in which (1) the item or spell is described, and (2) a brief explanation is made of how this item or spell raises one or more philosophical issues, and how those issues might be interesting or important, (3) at least five bibliographic resources are identified that could be useful, at least three of which are philosophical chapters or articles. More details will be provided in class.

QUIDDITCH TOURNAMENT. Using the very short scrolls as a basis, students will form into Houses (groups), and each House will prepare a presentation in which they clearly explain the philosophical issue raised by the item or spell, and in which they propose and defend a philosophical analysis of the item or spell, making use of the previously identified bibliographic resources. Presentations will be graded. Exceptional presentations may win House Points.

LONG SCROLL. Each student will prepare one Individual Long Scroll of approximately 66 inches (1500 words, or about 5-6 typed and double-spaced pages). This will be a traditional philosophy paper; specific instructions will be provided in advance.

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BY ORDER OF THE MINISTRY

You are responsible for knowing and following all University and College regulations, for example with respect to registration, drop or withdrawal, and grading status.

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, needs special arrangements to meet course requirements must contact us immediately so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. (All disabilities must be documented with the University.)

Any student who requires accommodation for religious observances must notify the instructor in advance.

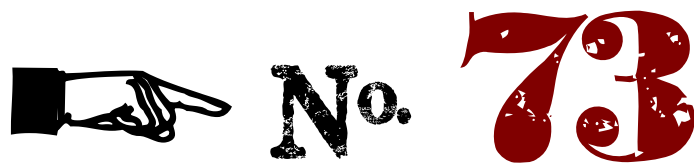
Many students use laptops, tablets, etc. in class for note taking and for access to online course materials. Such use is permitted so long as it is not distracting to students or instructors, or otherwise disruptive to the classroom environment. **Texting is always distracting.** Please turn off ringers on your cell phones, as well as the audio feedback or speakers on any other electronic devices. **Use of headphones, earbuds, or similar is prohibited excepting documented medical need.**

Use of portable electronic devices is subject to the usual standards of classroom decorum and common courtesy. You may at any time be asked to discontinue use.

The readings, assignments, and schedule are subject to change. You must attend class to receive the updates. You should expect to be treated with respect and fairness by the instructors and by your classmates. Among other things, you should expect that you understand how your work is graded, and that the instructors make themselves available to answer questions.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- (1) **UC IS CLOSED:** No class.
- (2) **Cincinnati Public Schools ARE CLOSED:** check Blackboard.
- (3) UC or CPS are delayed or partially closed: check Blackboard.
- (4) **Inclement weather does not delay or extend scheduled due dates or quiz dates—all of which are submitted online.**
- (5) Use **common sense:** Do not endanger yourself or others.
- (6) Do not use (5) as an *excuse*, or abuse the *trust* implied.
- (7) **IN PARTICULAR:** You are **RESPONSIBLE** for any material missed, even if you are invoking clause (5).

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Class will be conducted according to the UNIVERSITY
Student Code of Conduct.

VIOLATIONS of the Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the

Hogwarts High Inquisitor

or other appropriate authority.

ANY STUDENT WHO IS **ACADEMICALLY DISHONEST** WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

Further actions may be taken. Please familiarize yourself with the University guidelines on academic integrity, paying special **attention** to the guidelines regarding plagiarism, which we take very seriously. Note that it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to avoid academic dishonesty, and **you can be held responsible for PLAGIARISM even if you did not intend to commit the act.**

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Week 1, August 28 & 30 ➡ *Introduction & Book 1: Magical Places*

Space, Time, and Magic, Michael Silberstein (PDF)

Week 2, September 4 & 6 ➡ *Book 1: Spells & Transfiguration*

How to Do Things With Words, Lectures I & II (excerpts), J. L. Austin (PDF)

Essential Properties and Individual Essences (excerpts), Sonia Roca-Royes (PDF)

Week 3, September 11 & 13 ➡ *Book 1: Death*

Death, Thomas Nagel (PDF)

Life Is Short. That's the Point., Allison Arieff (web)

September 13. Practice O.W.L. Quiz

Week 4, September 18 & 20 ➡ *Book 2: Mudbloods and House Elves*

House-Elves, Hogwarts, and Friendship, Susan Peppers-Bates & Joshua Rust (PDF)

Racisms, Kwame Anthony Appiah

September 20, Very Short Scroll Due

Week 5, September 25 & 27 ➡ *Book 2: Polyjuice Potion, Animagus, and Personal Identity*

Sirius Black: Man or Dog?, Eric Saidel (UHP)

Of Identity and Diversity, John Locke (PDF)

Week 6, October 2 & 4 ➡ *Book 2: Souls and Personal Identity*

The Soul in Harry Potter, Scott Sehon (UHP)

De Anima, Book II, Aristotle (PDF)

October 4, O.W.L. Quiz #1

Week 7, October 9 ➡ *Intermission: Truth in Fiction*

Is Dumbledore Gay? Who's to Say?, Tamar Szabo Gendler (UHP)

October 11, No Class: Fall Reading Days

Week 8, October 16 & 18 ➡ *Book 3: Time Travel & The Marauders Map*

Time Travel: Double Your Fun (excerpts), Frank Artzenius

Privacy in Context (excerpts), Helen Nissenbaum

Week 9, October 23 & 25 ➡ *Book 4: The Triwizard Tournament & the Pensieve*

Paternalism, Gerald Dworkin (PDF)

A Pensieve for Your Thoughts? Harry Potter and the Magic of Memory, Amy Kind (UHP)

Week 10, October 30 & November 1 ➡ *Book 5: Prophecy & Freedom*

No Reading for Tuesday

Destiny in the Wizarding World, Jeremy Pierce (UHP)

Week 11, November 6 & 8 ➡ *Book 5: Thestrals & The Ministry of Magic*

Cognitive Penetration and the Epistemology of Perception (excerpts), Nicolas Silins

Harry Potter and the Half-Crazed Bureaucracy, Benjamin Barton (PDF)

November 8, O.W.L. Quiz #2

Week 12, November 13 & 15 ➡ *Book 6: Luck & Love Potions*

Moral Luck (excerpts), Bernard Williams and Thomas Nagel (PDF)

Love Potion No. 9 3/4 , Gregory Bassham (UHP)

Week 13, November 20 & 22 ➡ *Thanksgiving Break*

No Class This Week: Use Tuesday, Nov. 20, for meeting with your House

Week 14, November 27 & 29 ➡ *Book 7: Harry's Death and the Meaning of Life*

The Absurd, Thomas Nagel (PDF)

The Meanings of Lives, Susan Wolf (PDF)

Beyond Godric's Hollow: Life After Death and the Search for Meaning, Jonathan L. Walls
and Jerry L. Walls (UHP)

Week 15, December 4 & 6 ➡ *Quidditch Matches*

Week 16, December 10-15 ➡ *Exam Week*

December 12, Long Scroll Due