

INTERACT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

Oakwood Collegiate Institute

Course Code: HZT4U

Course Name: Philosophy: Questions & Theories

Level: 12, University Preparation

Instructor: Michael Alex

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Room Number: 315

Course Overview:

This course enables students to acquire an understanding of the nature of philosophy and philosophical reasoning skills and to develop and apply their knowledge and skills while exploring specialized branches of philosophy (the course will cover at least three of the following branches: metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, philosophy of science, social and political philosophy, aesthetics). Students will develop critical thinking and philosophical reasoning skills as they formulate and evaluate arguments related to a variety of philosophical questions and theories. They will also develop research and inquiry skills related to the study and practice of philosophy.

Prerequisite: Any university or university/college preparation course in Canadian and world studies, English, or social sciences and humanities.

Course Breakdown

Unit 1: Thinking Clearly, and Knowing It: Logic & Epistemology

Unit 2: What is this Thing Called Existence?: Metaphysics*

Unit 3: What is Right Conduct?: Ethics*

Unit 4: Choose Your Own Adventure: Exploring Philosophy* (Philosophies of Science, Politics and/or Aesthetics)

* Topics for investigation within these units will be negotiated democratically by the class and designed collaboratively, with Michael's guidance. Strands of study established in the Ontario Curriculum will be addressed across these units.

Evaluation Structure:

Knowledge/Understanding	25%
Thinking/Inquiry	25%
Communication	25%
Application	25%

The above is reflected both in the term work (worth 70% of the final mark) and the summative work (worth 30% of the final mark). Summative work consists of the Final Evaluation Project.

The term mark of 70% will be broken into:

30% Unit Culminating Projects (3; 10% each)

30% Term Evaluations (2) (15% each; December/January & May/June)

10% Completion of Class & Online Activities/Learning Journal (online assignments, in-class participation, etc.)

Term Grade = 70%

Final Evaluation Project = 30% (Based in Unit #4; Independent Study Project)

Evaluation Policy

Assignments which have been contracted for extension will not be penalized. All requests for extension must be submitted, in writing (email), to the course instructor with reasonable notice. Students under the age of majority are obligated to cc a parent/guardian to all extension requests. **Please indicate the course & assignment/evaluation in the email subject line!**

Assignments which are submitted late will receive a maximum of 75% of the grade that would have otherwise been earned (Example: 75% of 80/100 = 60%). This applied to major assignments and evaluations only. However, class/online work which is consistently late (i.e. the student is unprepared for class learning and activities) will result in a grade < Level 3 in this category. Work which is significantly late may, at the discretion of the course instructor, be submitted for 50% credit, maximum.

All term one work must be submitted prior to March Break. Except for in extreme and limited circumstances, work will not be accepted after this deadline, irrespective of extensions. All term two work must be submitted by the May long weekend. Final Evaluation Projects cannot be extended beyond the final day of class in June.

Students who wish to receive feedback on major assignments prior to due dates can request this, provided drafts are provided with sufficient time for the course instructor to give feedback. All work (submitted by deadline or contracted deadline) may be revised and resubmitted for additional (but not full) credit.

All major assignments MUST have in-text citations and a works cited list to be graded. No exceptions. Failure to provide these with the assignment will result in a grade of zero.

Day-to-day/online assignments do not require citations, strictly speaking. Students are encouraged, however, to provide evidence of source material for all work (even if informally).

Students are strongly encouraged to complete all assignments on the GAFE (Google Apps For Education Platform). This ensures that work will be saved and cannot be lost. Work submitted in other formats will not be graded.

Academic Dishonesty will be treated seriously. Inadvertent plagiarism (i.e. due to student misunderstanding rather than intentional cheating) will be treated as a learning opportunity, with the student responsible for addressing the problem(s) promptly, and resubmitting work for grading. Intentional cases of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment/evaluation in question, for ALL student(s) involved.

Students are expected to demonstrate their learning of course content (themes, concepts, theories, etc.) and learning skills in a variety of formats (e.g. research, ability to frame effective questions, research and argumentative essays, presentations, debates, etc.). However, wherever/whenever possible, students are encouraged to negotiate/communicate a learning plan for major assignments which reflects their own interests as they relate to course curriculum, and to complete their academic work in formats which meet their own learning strengths, while developing other areas as well.

NOTE: students enrolled in 2BLC classes (Dual-Credit, Blended Learning Classes) are obligated to:

- **Attend classes, punctually and regularly unless absent for out-of-school commitments which have been entered on Interact's Google Calendar.**
- **Complete online assignments regularly (on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis, as negotiated by the class/student). Online work will be equal in time commitment to class time (i.e. 75 min of class = 75 min of online learning). This does NOT include time for (a) missed classes, (b) homework/major assignment and evaluation preparation.**