



Global Great Books 3003F 550 – Reason and Revelation
Fall 2022
Monday 11:30-12:30; Wednesday 11:30-1:30
Room: HC-W6

How dreadful the knowledge of truth can be / When there's no help in truth.

--*Oedipus the King*

The Glory of Israel does not deceive or change his mind, for he is not a mortal, that he should change his mind.

--1 Samuel 15.29

Faith's paradox is this: that the single individual is higher than the universal.

--*Fear and Trembling*

Lord, why are you silent? Why are you always silent?

--*Silence*

Faith is only a word.

--*The Handmaid's Tale*

Prerequisite(s): None.

Office: A223

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 (or by appointment)

Instructor: Dr. Peter Sabo

Contact Information: psabo2@uwo.ca

Course Description:

From Oedipus (Sophocles) to Offred (Atwood), this course will investigate the nature of reason and faith, as well as their relationship to one another. Certain key questions will guide our analysis: Can faith be rational? Does reason supersede the need for faith? Are humans in control of their own lives or are they merely pawns of fate/God/the gods? What is faith? What does it mean to be faithful? Is faith, in its essence, paradoxical? (This question will make more sense when we discuss Kierkegaard.) What is the relation between doubt and faith? Is doubt the opposite of faith? Is doubt at the center of faith? Our goal is not so much to answer these questions as to reflect on them and contemplate how each of these texts covered in this class contemplate them as well. These questions, moreover, are not meant to be pondered only (or

even especially) from a “religious” perspective, since they relate to central questions regarding the meaning and purpose of life. They make us question what humans can ultimately know. Perhaps, for instance, there are things like justice and truth, but humans are limited in their capacity to understand such concepts. Or perhaps things like justice and truth are just human constructs created to avoid the meaninglessness—or at least arbitrariness—of life.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn to read and think critically.
2. Students will gain the ability to analyze ideas and situations, make considered decisions and form coherent, reasoned and fact-based judgements.
3. Students will become familiar with a selection of the writings of the world’s influential writers, and acquire an understanding of the key components of various cultural traditions.
4. Students will learn to be clear and concise writers.
5. This course will prepare students for further courses in Global Great Books.

Required Readings:

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (Penguin Classics 1984)

The Hebrew Bible/The Old Testament, *1 Samuel 1 – 2 Samuel 1* (any modern version, though preferably the New Revised Standard Version)

Søren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (Penguin Books 2005/2006)

Shusaku Endo, *Silence* (Picador Classic 2015)

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale* (McClelland & Stewart 2011)

*Additional readings will be provided on our OWL course website.

Evaluation:

Grades will be determined by the following:

- Preparation and Participation 25%
- Annotated Bibliography 15%
- Essay or Unessay 25%
- Class Presentation 15%
- Final Exam 20%

Preparation and Participation (25%)

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. This is especially the case, however, for a course like this, which is designed to be a collective reading-thinking-discussion exercise. After one unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will result in your participation grade being lowered by five points. If you have a compelling reason to miss class, I ask you to let me know. If you are unsure as to whether your reason is compelling, please discuss it with me. See the appendix to this syllabus for information on academic accommodations.

Attendance is just one aspect of preparation and participation. It is expected that you will have completed the required reading *before* each class. During class, moreover, you should pay attention, participate regularly in discussion, and contribute to group discussions and the like. At times, I will ask you to post a paragraph length post on OWL that will be due before class starts. I may offer question prompts to guide the content of your posts, though sometimes the post will be open-ended. I encourage you to read each other's posts, too, as they are intended to foster discussion.

Annotated Bibliography (15%) and Essay or Unessay (25%)

The major project for this course will be an essay (or unessay) with an annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography will require you to list citations of at least five scholarly articles and books. A brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation, follows each citation. Additionally, this assignment requires a page-length (double-spaced) abstract that provides a working thesis, main points, and outline of a proposed essay. The annotated bibliography is due on October 26th.

The primary purpose of the annotated bibliography is to prepare for the essay. The general expectation for the length of the essay is 10 (double-spaced) pages. It should be no shorter than 9 pages and you need permission of the instructor if it is over 11 pages. In place of a traditional essay, there is the option of an unessay—a term I use to describe any project that it is not a traditional essay. Possible formats for the unessay include podcasts, video essays, or the like. If you choose to do an unessay, please let me know about this on the annotated bibliography itself (that way I can help provide direction and guidance). I will provide more details about the expectations for the essay and unessay later in the course.

Class Presentation (15%)

Each student will be required to do a class presentation. For this assignment, your task is to summarize a secondary scholarly article on one of the primary texts covered in this course. You should aim for your presentation to be no longer than 15 minutes but no shorter than 10 minutes (that time will go by much quicker than you think). In your presentation, you should seek to summarize the article, offer analysis (or criticism) of it, and provide two or three questions at the end for the class to discuss. I encourage you to use PowerPoint or some other helpful presentation tool; however, you are under no obligation to do so, as you are free to choose your own structure.

You will need instructor approval of the article you intend to use for your presentation at least a week ahead of the date of your presentation. Potential presentation dates are Sept 26th, Oct 12th,

Oct 26th, Nov 16th, and Dec 5th. There will only be one presentation allotted on any given date and the dates will be given on first-come, first-served basis.

Final Exam (20%)

There will be a final exam based on the readings for this course. The date and time of the final exam is TBD.

Late Policy

Missed or Late Work Late assignments will not be accepted, and as a rule I do not grant extensions mere days before an assignment is due. However, some flexibility is possible. I encourage you to look over the syllabus and check it against your schedule. If you have a conflict, I am willing to work with you to set a new deadline, provided that you contact me **well in advance**. For more information on academic accommodations for medical and non-medical reasons please consult the appendix below.

Tentative Schedule:

(Please note that this schedule may change depending on the pace with which we move through the readings).

Date	Reading	Assignments Due
Sept 12 (M)	Class Intro.	
Sept 14 (W)	<i>Oedipus the King</i>	
Sept 19 (M)	<i>Oedipus the King</i>	
Sept 21 (W)	<i>Oedipus the King</i>	
Sept 26 (M)	<i>Oedipus the King</i>	<i>Class Presentation Date</i>
Sept 28 (W)	<i>The Saul Story</i>	
Oct 3 (M)	<i>The Saul Story</i>	
Oct 5 (W)	<i>The Saul Story</i>	
Oct 10 (M)	NO CLASS	
Oct 12 (W)	<i>The Saul Story</i>	<i>Class Presentation Date</i>
Oct 17 (M)	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>	
Oct 19 (W)	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>	
Oct 24 (M)	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>	
Oct 26 (W)	<i>Fear and Trembling</i>	Annotated Bibliography Due <i>Class Presentation Date</i>
Oct 31-Nov 6	BREAK	
Nov 7 (M)	<i>Silence</i>	
Nov 9 (W)	<i>Silence</i>	
Nov 14 (M)	<i>Silence</i>	
Nov 16 (W)	<i>Silence</i>	<i>Class Presentation Date</i>
Nov 21 (M)	<i>Silence</i>	
Nov 23 (W)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	
Nov 28 (M)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	

Nov 30 (W)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	
Dec 2 (F)		Essay or Unnesay Due
Dec 5 (M)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	<i>Class Presentation Date</i>
Dec 7 (W)	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (and/or course review and recap)	



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will

communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for

any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages - [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/)