

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Philosophy of Risk**

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

2263F 550

Instructor Name(s): Lucien Lamoureux

Instructor Email(s): llamour2@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Drawing on probability and decision theory, ethics, and legal philosophy, the course will deal with personal choice and the perception of risk, the moral and social acceptability of risks, and the legal management of risk.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

1. Describe philosophical theories concerning risk.
2. Apply these theories to concrete situations.
3. Discuss competing points of view on issues in philosophy of risk.
4. Evaluate conflicting philosophical arguments related to these issues.
5. Formulate well-reasoned solutions to practical dilemmas.
6. Persuade others of a well-reasoned stance or action.
7. Demonstrate skillful critical and reflective thinking.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Risk: Philosophical Perspectives, Tim Lewens ed., Routledge (2007). This first edition is available at Western's bookstore as a print copy (\$80.10) or as an ebook (\$83.00).

Laws of Fear: Beyond the Precautionary Principle, Sunstein, Carl, Cambridge (2005). This first edition is available at Western's bookstore as a print copy (\$37.70) or as an ebook (\$37.00).

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Attendance	12/09/2026	10
Midterm Exam #1	10/24/2026	30

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Midterm Exam #2	11/21/2026	30
Final Exam	TBA	30

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.