

Philosophy of Money

PHIL 2264G | Sec 550 | Summer Evening of 2026 (June 15-July 24) online [6 Weeks]

Information

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh

Email: jmarsh26@uwo.ca

Office Hour: TBA

Please allow 24 hours (M-F) for replies.

Class Times and Location(s): M & W, 6:30 PM. Online. See comment box below.

Description

We all care about money. But what is it? And is it okay to want it? make it? keep it? tax it? charge interest? Are we required to give it away? What are some common 'irrationalities' that cause us to lose money? Does having it make us happy? unhappy? These will be our driving questions.

No background in the philosophy of money is expected or presupposed. All are welcome. Additionally, although this is a "breadth course" rather than a "depth course", you will have an opportunity to go into more detail in your term paper.

Breadth: CATEGORY B

Course Weight: 0.50

Subject Code: PHILOSOP

Methods

Teaching methods include lectures, dialogues, videos, crowdsourcing, and work sessions.

Text & Costs

There is no textbook for this course. There are also no anticipated course-specific costs other than a possible movie rental. Any readings will be made available.

Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection

(Chromebook devices may not fully support PowerPoint voice recordings).



Desktop or laptop with Microsoft Office



Working microphone



Working webcam

To respect the privacy and confidentiality of all members of this class, no videos, pictures, or voice recordings please, except where (i) recording is an approved accommodation and (ii) you've received the instructor's written permission — as the class must be notified, in full confidentiality, when recording is taking place



This fully online course will contain a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous learning methods. All synchronous (i.e., live Zoom) sessions will take place at the Monday and Wednesday start times above. Zoom meetings will never last a full 3 hours. As an alternative, students will be given material to prepare for those sessions, asynchronously, at their own discretion. Weekly checklists and a Zoom link will be made available. **Lastly, if you are working outside of Huron's local time zone, and are unable to attend our Zoom meetings, please see the comment box below (p. 3) .**

Aims

By the end of the term, every committed student will be better acquainted with:

1. Philosophical controversies not only about what money is, but also, how it relates to happiness, rationality, and public and private morality (KNOWLEDGE).



Students will also

2. Apply these controversies to real-life cases individually and in groups (REFLECTION & APPLICATION).
3. Develop a sustained written argument that contributes to such controversies (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & SKILLS).

Evaluative Requirements

Assignments	Values	Dates	Aims (see above)
• 1. Early Bird Reflections	15%	June 30	1&2
• 2. Money Exercise (in groups)	10%	July 20	2
• 3. Paper	30%	July 23	3
• 4. Exam	30%	July 27	1&2
• 5. Participation	15%	Weekly	1&2

Early Bird Reflections: [“Dumb Spending”] (15%) A short and creative video assignment analyzing the popular concept of “dumb spending” from economic and philosophical perspectives. Drawing on course concepts, students will challenge low-quality internet discourse by “steel-manning” competing sides of a spending controversy. Multiple theoretical frameworks will be applied to a single real-world example. Facial presentation on camera is optional; however, a recorded vocal delivery and visual aids are required. More details will be made available on OWL Brightspace.

Money Exercise (in groups) (10%) Working in small teams, students will address a problem in the philosophy of money, on **July 20 at 6:30 PM**, creatively drawing on course concepts and techniques. Further details, including group numbers and evaluation criteria, will be provided via OWL Brightspace after the class population stabilizes.

Paper (30%): It is important for university students to conduct their own research and then defend an argument, in writing, that moves a discussion forward. This is the aim of your research paper. I will provide some broad topics, but each student must come up with their own project and thesis statement.

Exam (30%): To take place on **Monday, July 27 at 6:30 PM**. Students will have exactly 2 hours to complete—and properly submit—the exam via Brightspace, unless they have registered accommodations for extra time, which will be confidentially applied. Students may draw on course materials (e.g., course slides or readings) only. No external sources or aids (e.g., general internet searches, AI, etc.) are permitted. Anything we cover in class, at any point, is admissible and hence a proper object of study, unless I explicitly say otherwise in writing. It is the student’s sole responsibility to ensure their submission has successfully uploaded and to verify they have received Brightspace’s automated email submission confirmation before logging off. Submissions discovered “in progress” or uploaded late due to unverified technical claims will not be accepted for grading. Please **make plans now to be available for this exam** date, and be sure **not to make any irrevocable travel arrangements**, as these do not entitle a student to a special exam.

Participation (15%) Good philosophy requires conversation. As such, the success of our weekly sessions will be largely determined by the overall quality of the comments of the participants. Students are, accordingly, expected to “be present” and take active measures to advance the discussion. In addition to verbal contributions, submitting all required participation comments, in writing, via OWL’s forum, if and when prompted. These (typically 1-2 sentence) assignments **cannot be submitted late**, and/or from **outside the Zoom meeting**, and/or by **a surrogate submitter** Nor will the questions be circulated ahead of time. Any technical difficulties, with OWL Brightspace must be brought to my attention immediately, in class, as submissions, after class or when the window closes, are never permitted.

Note: if you are working outside of Huron’s local time zone, and are unable to attend our live online sessions (e.g. if our classes for you would take place at 2:30AM), please email me by June 25 and write **“Opt-Out Request for Online Participation”** in the **subject title**. I would be pleased to fully accommodate you. These accommodations, which come in the form of a **grade transfer** to remaining assessments, are only for our weekly Zoom classes. Please record your podcast during a time that works for you and everyone else in your group. To keep up with missed content, please review the Zoom slides (which contain written notes, but no recordings, to preserve student privacy) and the prep slides (which, ordinarily, contain recordings from your instructor).

Disclaimer [No Advice]: We will draw on standard concepts, examples, and tools involving finance and investments for educational purposes only. No financial or investment advice will be given at any point in this course.

Grading Information and Explanation of Grades

Each assignment will come with clear instructions. Students will be evaluated in accordance with how well they follow them. What follows is a university wide grade explanation:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

As the above scale implies, intellectual skills and performances come in degrees. This scale will help clarify those degrees.

Formal Considerations: academic considerations for a missed exam or a term paper that isn’t submitted before the final window closes require a formal recommendation from your advisor. To submit a request, and any required documentation, please use the following website: <https://huronu.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/academic-consideration/>.

Formal considerations for a missed final exam will ordinarily come in the form of a special exam, which, if missed, cannot be attempted again without additional formal considerations.

Informal Considerations: Students are permitted one (1) academic consideration for this half (0.5) course without formal supporting documentation. This may be applied towards your early bird assignment or your group work exercise — not both — provided.

- this is requested in a timely manner (ordinarily within 48 hours of the missed date).

Please note that our group work assignment contains an essential group dialogue/collective learning component. As such, it cannot, by its very nature, be substituted with a solo/alternative assignment while retaining its purpose. For this reason, any considerations, if granted, will come in the form of a grade transfer (i.e., its value will be transferred to the final exam).

AI & Cheating-Detection Software

No AI: Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok, Claude, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Notice of Turnitin Analysis: All written work 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.