

COURSE OUTLINE  
**PHIL 301 PHILOSOPHICAL FUNDAMENTALS**  
Winter term 2023: TTH 16:00-17:30  
LEA 927

Professor M. Deslauriers  
Office: Leacock 943  
Phone: 514-398-6215  
Philosophy Office: Leacock 414  
e-mail: [marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca](mailto:marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca)  
Office Hours: Thursday, 10:00-12:00

This course is required of, and open only to, students who have begun an undergraduate Honours degree in philosophy, and who have completed Philosophy 210 or the equivalent. Philosophical Fundamentals is a 'skills' course. The primary aims are to ensure that you can read and charitably reconstruct an argument in a text, and that you can present an argument and critically evaluate it, both in conversation and in writing.

The course will address four related themes in moral and political philosophy: friendship, justice, equality and autonomy. We will approach these themes historically and through contemporary readings. The topics are all such that they can be considered in both personal and political terms, and so we will discuss the relation between personal relationships and political relationships. For example, we will ask whether friendship is possible between people who are not equals, whether justice is friendship on a political scale, and whether equality presupposes autonomy.

Among the philosophers we will be reading are: Plato, Aristotle, Michel de Montaigne, Gabriel Suchon, Étienne de la Boétie, Richard Arneson, Jeremy Waldron, and Natalie Stoljar.

**This is not a lecture course. Students should be aware that they will be responsible in every class for much of the discussion.**

**REQUIRED READING:** required readings will be posted on the MyCourses page for the course. Students should expect to read 30-50 pages a week, and should come to class prepared to discuss the reading assigned for each week.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** participation in discussion (5%); 10 weekly discussion questions to be posted on MyCourses (20%), an oral presentation (10%), a short paper based on the presentation incorporating points raised in discussion (25%); a term paper proposal (10%); a term paper (35%).

**POLICY ON EXTENSIONS:** No extensions will be granted without prior approval from the instructor. Requests for extensions must be made in writing, by e-mail, to [marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca](mailto:marguerite.deslauriers@mcgill.ca); include if possible a proposed date of submission. If you have not received approval for an extension, late work will be penalized at the rate of a third of a grade **per calendar day** past the due date. For example, a paper that is evaluated as a B, if one day late, will be assigned a grade of B-; the same paper, if two days late, would receive a C+.

**REQUIRED COURSE OUTLINE STATEMENTS**  
**Policy statement: Academic Integrity**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)" (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par

conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill](#)).

**Policy statement: Language of Submission**

Conformément à [la Charte des droits de l'étudiant](#) de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue.

In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Students' Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.