

Food for Thought

General Information

Course #:	FN-3450F
Section #:	001
Term:	Fall
Year:	2024-25
Delivery:	In person
Course Day and Time:	Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Peggy O'Neil, PhD., PHEc.
E-mail: poneil2@uwo.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00 am to noon via Zoom Meeting (see OWL for link and passcode)

Course Description

An introductory course in philosophy of food that engages students to think and write critically about local and global ideas about food that impact human ecology and dietetic practice.

Prerequisite(s):

Foods and Nutrition 1070A/B or the former Foods and Nutrition 1030E or the former Foods and Nutrition 1021 and Foods and Nutrition 1241A/B or Foods and Nutrition 2241A.

Required Course Materials

- Vaughn L. & McIntosh, J. S. (2013). *Writing philosophy: A guide for Canadian students* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Weekly readings and other resources posted to OWL

Learning Outcomes

Through the ages, philosophers and everyday people alike have asked the question, “what is a good life”. In searching for the answer, a world view and way of life is discovered. Today, agri-food systems are central to ideas about the future of life on Earth. With an emphasis on philosophic methods, students will ask and answer for themselves what a *good life* is through food.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate introductory knowledge and application of philosophic methods and writing.
2. Understand philosophy as a means of conceptualizing and responding to issues in agri-food.

3. Critically formulate arguments and strategies in agri-food to address human and/or environmental issues of individual and collective concern to students.
4. Discover and/or expand students' own world view, and demonstrate a capacity to overcome counter-arguments which may otherwise impede student goals for themselves, humanity, and the natural world.

Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP)

The ICDEP consist of 7 interrelated Domains (areas) of Practice Competencies: Food and Nutrition Expertise, Professionalism and Ethics, Communication and Collaboration, Management and Leadership, Nutrition Care, Population Health Promotion, and Food Provision.

For more information on ICDEP competencies please visit the UWO OWL FN UNDERGRADUATE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION site.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course is taught using a humanistic education philosophy which focuses on individual development toward the collective potential of humanity. This approach to teaching/learning emphasizes generated knowledge and shared experiences in the classroom; as such, the instructional method for the course is *communities of practice* (Wenger & Trayner), which includes experiential learning combined with self/team contributions, reflections, and assessments.

Accordingly:

- Students are expected to foster a culture of sharing, caring, dignity and respect in all course-related interactions. Students will help each other during whole class and small group engagement activities, including debates, reflection, analysis, discussions, role play and other collaborative experiences.
 - Weekly readings and other resources must be read/viewed **PRIOR to each class** in order to contribute to each student's own and to peers' growth and understanding.
 - **Attendance and active contribution are mandatory.**
 - Group assignments must be completed as a group. Individual submissions will be automatically reduced by 20%.
- Regular classroom participation is particularly important to the fulfillment of learning objectives in this course. Participation means not only attendance, but active engagement in the class, including (for example) contribution to small and large group discussions, a demonstrated effort to prepare for class by completing assigned readings before class, and following the instructor's guidelines for use of electronic devices during class time. You are responsible for the material covered during the classes (or parts of classes) that you miss.
 - The course has 12 class sessions, amounting to 36 hours of classroom time. **Students who miss more than 2 classes without academic consideration will fail this course.** Students who require academic consideration for more than 3 missed classes (i.e., students who miss more than 5 classes over the

course of the term) will fail this course (or, at the discretion of their academic advisor, be withdrawn from the course without academic penalty). **No further warning will be given in this regard.**

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Use of Generative AI

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, includes but is not limited to writing assistants (e.g., ChatGPT, QuillBot) and translation services (e.g., Google translate). **Use of generative AI tools is prohibited or in a way not specifically allowed is a scholastic offence and subject to the penalties for a scholastic offence outlined in the Academic Calendar.** Students cannot use AI in this course.

Evaluation

Essay Requirement: According to Western academic regulations as set out in the Academic Calendar, for a student to pass a designated essay course (an E, F, or G course) they must demonstrate competence in essay writing. That is, to pass this course you **must** pass the essay component. Total written assignments (excluding tests and examinations) for designated essay half courses (2000 level and above) is at least 2500 words.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Date/ Deadline	Assignment Status
Personal Philosophy #1: Questions (Individual)	10%	Sept. 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required; flexible
Community of Practice & Engagement Activity (Community of Practice)	10%	Ongoing & Weeks 7, 8, 9 & 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required; flexible See Attendance note above
Philosophic Analysis (Community of Practice)	20%	Weeks 3, 4, 5 & 6 (Thurs.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required, flexible
Personal Philosophy #2: Answers (Individual)	30%	Nov. 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required; flexible, 60% to pass
Philosophy Research Paper (Community of Practice)	30%	Dec. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required; flexible, 60% to pass

Course Content

Weekly Organizer:

Class	Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
1	Sept. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Course Overview • Introduction to Philosophy • Student-generated topics for Weeks 8, 9, and 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWL Resources
2	Sept. 10 th , 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food sovereignty: Freedom, anti-poverty, and ecological sustainability. • Virtue Ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.1; p. 1-20) • OWL Resources • DUE: Personal Philosophy #1
3	Sept. 17 th , 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporatism: Creative and economic losses; food environments. • Deontology (Duty to others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.2; p. 21-38) • OWL Resources • DUE: Philosophic Analysis #1
4	Sept. 24 th , 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family farming: Intangible cultural heritages, peasant studies, and agrarian citizenship. • Teleology (Consequences) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.2; p. 21-38) • OWL Resources • DUE: Philosophic Analysis #2
5	Oct. 1 st , 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioregionalism: Local food, diets of consciousness, and cultural food (in)security. • Moral awareness/evolution (Social progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.3; p. 45-55) • OWL Resources • DUE: Philosophic Analysis #3
6	Oct. 8 th , 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global peace-keeping: Food insecurity and conflict, emergency food. • Humanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.4; p. 58-63) • OWL Resources • DUE: Philosophic Analysis #4
	Oct. 15 th , 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FALL READING WEEK 	
7	Oct. 22 nd , 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Peri Dworatzek (York U.) Ecological Footprint/Food • Exploring personal philosophies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWL Resources • Community Engagement Activities
8	Oct. 29 th , 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-generated Topic (TBD Week 1) • Poetics (Spoken/popular thought) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.5; p. 65-90) • OWL Resources • Community Engagement Activities

9	Nov. 5 th , 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-generated Topic (TBD Week 1) • Aesthetics (Beauty, harmony, unity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.6; p. 96-106) • OWL Resources • Community Engagement Activities
10	Nov. 12 th , 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-generated Topic. (TBD Week 1) • A good life (Personal truth) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Philosophy (Part 1.7; p. 108-116) • OWL Resources • <u>Independent Study Nov. 14th</u> • DUE: Personal Philosophy #2
11	Nov. 19 th , 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Views and Ways of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy Research Paper informal presentations to learning community for feedback. • Community Engagement Activities
12	Nov. 26 th , 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team meetings with instructor (See schedule) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final paper outline, bibliography, questions, and concerns.
13	Dec. 3 rd , 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Research & Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUE: Philosophy Research Paper • DUE: Community of Practice

FHS Common Course Outline Attachment

Statement on Prerequisite Checking

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

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

In accordance with [policy](#), the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Health and Wellness

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://mcintoshgallery.ca/>). Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych>) for a list of options for obtaining help.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. For those classes in which we use this technology, it is your responsibility to ensure that the device is activated and functional. You must speak with the course instructor immediately, if you have any concerns about whether or not your clicker is malfunctioning.

You must use only your own clicker. For all components of this course in which clicker records are used to compute a portion of the 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 offense

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, in the [Academic Calendar \(westerncalendar.uwo.ca\)](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca).

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author’s ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All 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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments

The link to the Student Absence Portal can be found in OWL Brightspace course site, under [Course Information](#).

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request (in writing) any necessary academic considerations at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the academic advisors in their Home Department. Additional information is provided in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Accommodation

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. Students with ongoing accommodation needs within this course are also encouraged to contact [Accessible Education](#), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances that are medical or compassionate in nature. These extenuating circumstances may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. In all cases, students are advised to consult with the academic advisors in their home units, at their earliest opportunity. Academic advisors may refer students to [Accessible Education](#) for ongoing academic accommodations.

Most forms of academic consideration require documentation, and this documentation is to be submitted to academic advisors within five (5) business days of their return to academic responsibilities. Any such documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's [Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy](#). Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic considerations shall be determined by academic advising, in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic considerations may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic considerations shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”).

Whenever possible, students who require academic considerations should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Under no circumstances are students expected to submit rationales for (or documentation of) any absences, to course instructors. Students are, however, required to follow-up with course instructors, in a timely fashion, to identify the ways in which the academic consideration will be implemented.

Examination Conflicts

A student completing tests or examinations with flexible submission times (e.g., where one or more evaluation is a take-home assessment) cannot request alternative arrangements unless a conflict cannot be avoided by rescheduling writing the exam to a different time within the window specified by the instructor. This applies to direct conflicts as well as “heavy load” conflicts (e.g., three exams within a 23-hour period). The student should discuss any concerns about a potential conflict and/or request academic considerations with their academic advising unit prior to the deadline to drop a course without academic penalty

In the case of online tests and examinations, use of a “Conflict Room,” wherein student can write two proctored exams concurrently, will be interpreted as arrangements for continuous proctoring.

Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Pivoting to 100% Online Learning

In the event of an event that requires this course to pivot to online content delivery, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Appealing a Grade Within this Course

You have the right to appeal any grade within this course. The grounds for a grade appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness.

A request for relief against a mark or grade must be initiated with the instructor as soon as possible after the mark is issued. This appeal need not be in writing. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily with the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the Department within three weeks of the date that the mark was issued. In the case of a final grade in a course, the written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the department by January 31st (for first-term half courses) or June 30th (for second-term half courses or full-year courses).

Your appeal letter does not need to be lengthy, but it should clearly indicate the detailed reason(s) for your request, any circumstances that impacted your ability to perform successfully, and the relief you are requesting. You are encouraged to provide supporting documentation if you identify extenuating circumstances that contributed to your situation. The Office of the Ombudsperson has extensive information available on their website (<https://uwo.ca/ombuds/get-help.html>) related to academic appeals.