

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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15PHIL2080

Philosophical Themes  
at  
Hogwarts

WILL **MEET** IN 043 McMICKEN HALL  
ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND *FRIDAYS* FROM  
9<sup>05</sup>am *until* 10<sup>00</sup>am

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THOMAS WILLIAM POLGER

Has Been APPOINTED to the POST of  
HEADMASTER OF HOGWARTS  
and PROFESSOR of this Class

with office hours:

Department of Philosophy, 206B MCMICKEN  
MONDAYS, 10<sup>00</sup>-11<sup>00</sup>, *and by appointment*

("Help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it.")

**THOMAS.POLGER@UC.EDU**

**TEXT ONLY: 513-813-7445**

# PROCLAMATION.

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The **KEEPER OF KEYS** AND GROUNDS

with his office in

**257 McMicken Hall**

is:

**MATTHEW WILLIS**

office hours: Wednesdays, 1<sup>00</sup>-2<sup>00</sup>pm

email: [willi4m7@mail.uc.edu](mailto:willi4m7@mail.uc.edu)

# PROCLAMATION.

## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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 N<sup>o</sup>. **16**

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All STUDENTS must *acquire* the texts:

*THE ULTIMATE HARRY POTTER  
AND PHILOSOPHY:  
HOGWARTS FOR MUGGLES*

*plus*

**VARIOUS OTHER READINGS**  
via Blackboard

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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students are hereby directed to achieve the

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

*for this class:*

DEVELOP FAMILIARITY with PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES  
**practice reading and analyzing philosophical texts**  
create and evaluate

### PHILOSOPHICAL REASONING

including understanding historical works  
as well as inventing original ideas

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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**STUDENTS WILL BE SORTED** into houses:

Gryffindor

Hufflepuff

Ravenclaw

*Slytherin*

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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ACTIVITIES and **Grades** have been approved  
by the MINISTRY and  
HEADMASTER.

There will be some **individual assignments**  
and one HOUSE assignment.

### INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

8 Very Short Scrolls;  
1 Short Scroll;  
2 Quizzes;  
and 1 long scroll

### HOUSE ASSIGNMENTS

1 Quidditch Tournament; plus House Points

For **DETAILS** see the addendum to **EDUCATIONAL DECREE No. 47**

# ADDENDUM.

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## TO EDUCATIONAL DECREE N<sup>o</sup>. 47

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Individual Assignments with scheduled due dates		House Assignment with scheduled due dates	
Very Short Scrolls quasi-weekly	40%	Quidditch Tournament April 14-16	10%
Short Scroll Feb 1	10%		
O.W.L. Quiz March 3	10%	House Cup	Extra credit up to 6%
N.E.W.T. Quiz April 7	10%		
Long Scroll April 26	20%		

**QUIZZES.** Two in-class quizzes—O.W.L. and N.E.W.T. Quizzes—will be cumulative.

**VERY SHORT SCROLLS.** Approximately once per week there will be an opportunity to write a Very Short Scroll of 22 inches or less (about 2 pages or fewer) in which you respond to a specific prompt given in class. There will be at least ten (10) opportunities in the semester, and you must satisfactorily complete at least eight (8) Very Short Scrolls to get full credit. More details will be provided in class.

**SHORT SCROLL.** Each student will select one magical phenomenon or object not already scheduled for classroom discussion, and write a short scroll of about 33 inches (750 words, 3 pages typed and double-spaced) in which (1) the item or spell is described, and (2) a brief explanation is made of how this item or spell raises one or more philosophical issues, and how those issues might be interesting or important, (3) at least five bibliographic resources are identified that could be useful, at least three of which are philosophical chapters or articles. More details will be provided in class.

**QUIDDITCH TOURNAMENT.** Using the very short scrolls as a basis, students in each House (group) will prepare a group presentation in which they clearly explain the philosophical issue raised by an item or spell, and in which they propose and defend a philosophical analysis of the item or spell, being sure to make use of the previously identified bibliographic resources. Presentations will be graded, and exceptional presentations may win House Points (extra credit) of up to 6%.

**LONG SCROLL.** Each student will prepare one Individual Long Scroll of approximately 66 inches (1500 words, or about 5-6 typed and double-spaced pages). This will be a traditional philosophy paper due during exam week; detailed instructions will be provided at least one week in advance.



# PROCLAMATION.

# EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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## BY ORDER OF THE MINISTRY

You are responsible for knowing and following all University and College regulations, for example with respect to registration, drop or withdrawal, and grading status.

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, needs special arrangements to meet course requirements must contact us immediately so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. (All disabilities must be documented with the University.)

Any student who requires additional accommodation, e.g., for religious or cultural observances, must notify the instructor in advance.

Many students use laptops, tablets, etc. in class for note taking and for access to online course materials. Such use is permitted so long as it is not distracting to students or instructors, or otherwise disruptive to the classroom environment. **Texting is always distracting.** Please turn off ringers on your cell phones, as well as the audio feedback or speakers on any other electronic devices. **Use of headphones, earbuds, or similar is prohibited excepting documented medical need.** *Use of portable electronic devices is subject to the usual standards of classroom decorum and common courtesy. You may at any time be asked to discontinue use.*

**The readings, assignments, and schedule are subject to change.** You must attend class to receive the updates. You should expect to be treated with respect and fairness by the instructors and by your classmates. Among other things, you should expect that you understand how your work is graded, and that the instructors make themselves available to answer questions.

Students have access to **counseling and mental health care** through the University Health Services (UHS), which can provide both psychotherapy and psychiatric services. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide professional counseling upon request; students may receive five free counseling sessions through CAPS without insurance. Students are encouraged to seek assistance for anxiety, depression, trauma/assault, adjustment to college life, interpersonal/relational difficulty, sexuality, family conflict, grief and loss, disordered eating and body image, alcohol and substance abuse, anger management, identity development and issues related to diversity, concerns associated with sexual orientation and spirituality concerns, as well as any other issue of concerns. After hours, students may call UHS at 513-556-2564 or CAPS Cares at 513-556-0648. For urgent physician consultation after-hours students may call 513-584-7777.

**Title IX** is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of your actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Title IX also covers sexual violence, dating or domestic violence, and stalking. If you disclose a Title IX issue to me, I am required forward that information to the Title IX Office. They will follow up with you about how the University can take steps to address the impact on you and the community and make you aware of your rights and resources. Their priority is to make sure you are safe and successful here. You are not required to talk with the Title IX Office. If you would like to make a report of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment or violence, or if you would like to know more about your rights and resources on campus, you can consult the website [www.uc.edu/titleix](http://www.uc.edu/titleix) or contact the office at 556-3349.

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- (1) **UC IS CLOSED:** No class.
- (2) **Cincinnati Public Schools ARE CLOSED:** check Blackboard.
- (3) UC or CPS are delayed or partially closed: check Blackboard.
- (4) **Inclement weather does not delay or extend scheduled due dates or quiz dates, unless class is cancelled on the quiz day**
- (5) Use **common sense:** Do not endanger yourself or others.
- (6) Do not use (5) as an *excuse*, or abuse the *trust* implied.
- (7) **IN PARTICULAR:** You are **RESPONSIBLE** for any material missed, even if you are invoking clause (5).

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

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Class will be conducted according to the **UNIVERSITY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.**

Suspected **VIOLATIONS** of the Student Code of Conduct will be sent to the

**Hogwarts High Inquisitor**

and reported via the **Academic Misconduct Process.**

**ANY STUDENT WHO IS ACADEMICALLY DISHONEST WILL FAIL THE COURSE.**

Further actions may be taken. Please familiarize yourself with the University guidelines on academic integrity, paying special **attention** to the guidelines regarding plagiarism, which we take very seriously. Note that it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to avoid academic dishonesty, and you can be held responsible for PLAGIARISM even if you did not intend to commit the act.

# PROCLAMATION.

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## EDUCATIONAL DECREE

---



*Week 1, January 9, 11, 13* ➡ *Introduction & Transfiguration*

Sortal Concepts and Essential Properties I: Substance Sortals and Essential Sortals, Ch. 7  
from *How Things Might Have Been*, Penelope Mackie (PDF)

*Week 2, January 18, 20* ➡ *Levitation, Apparition, and Time Turners*

*No Class, January 16 - MLK Day*

Mctaggart on Time (1/2), Dr. Bowers' Office Hours ([YouTube](#))

Space, Time, and Magic, Michael Silberstein (PDF)

*Week 3, January 23, 25, 27* ➡ *Horcruxes, Part I: What Are Souls?*

The Soul in Harry Potter, Scott Sehon (UHP)

De Anima, Book II, Aristotle (PDF)

Meditation II, René Descartes (PDF)

Week 4, January 30, February 1 & 3 📖➡️ *Death*

Death, Thomas Nagel (PDF)

Why Harry and Socrates Decide to Die, Michael W. Austin (UHP)

*February 1. Short Scroll Due*

Week 5, February 6, 8, 10 📖➡️ *Prophecy and Free Will*

Destiny in the Wizarding World, Jeremy Pierce (UHP)

The Prophecy-Driven Life: Fate and Freedom at Hogwarts, Gregory Bassham (PDF)

Causation, Prophetic Visions, and the Free Will Question in Harry Potter, Patricia Donaher and James Okapal (PDF)

Week 6, February 13, 15, 17 📖➡️ *Thestrals, Boggarts, and the Pensieve*

Thestrals, J. K. Rowling ([web](#))

Boggarts, J. K. Rowling ([web](#))

Cognitive Penetration and the Epistemology of Perception, Nicholas Silins (PDF)

A Pensieve for Your Thoughts? Harry Potter and the Magic of Memory, Amy Kind (UHP)

Week 7, February 20, 22, 24 *Horcruxes, Part II: What Are Persons?*

Of Identity and Diversity, John Locke (PDF)

Sirius Black: Man or Dog?, Eric Sidel (UHP)

*February 24. No Class: Quidditch Tournament Preparation*

*February 24. UG Philosophy Colloquium: Embodied Awareness*

Week 8, February 27, March 1 & 3 📖➡️ *Spells and the Limits of Magic*

How to Do Things With Words, selections from Lectures I & II, J. L. Austin (PDF)

The Five Principal Exceptions to Gamp's Law of Elemental Transfiguration, David Haber ([web](#))

*March 3. O.W.L. Quiz*

*Week 9, March 6, 8, 10* ➡ *Dumbledore, Grindelwald, and Voldemort: Politics and Power*

Dumbledore's Politics, Beth Admiraal and Regan Lance Reitsma (UHP)

Dumbledore, Plato, and the Lust for Power, David Lay Williams and Alan J. Kellner (UHP)

*March 10. No Class: Quidditch Tournament Preparation*

*Week 10, March 13, 15, 17* ➡ *Spring Break*

*Week 11, March 20, 22, 24* ➡ *Absurdity and the Meaning of Life*

The Absurd, Thomas Nagel (PDF)

The Meanings of Lives, Susan Wolf (PDF)

Beyond Godric's Hollow: Life After Death and the Search for Meaning, Jonathan L. Walls and Jerry L. Walls (UHP)

*Week 12, March 27, 29, 31* ➡ *Truth in Fiction*

Fiction and Metaphysics, Ch. 1, Amie Thomasson (PDF)

Is Dumbledore Gay? Who's to Say?, Tamar Szabo Gendler (UHP)

*March 31. No Class: Quidditch Tournament Preparation*

*Week 13, April 3, 5, 7* ➡ *House Elves and Hermione*

*April 3. No Class: Quidditch Tournament Preparation*

Kreacher's Lament: S.P.E.W. as a Parable on Discrimination, Indifference, and Social

Justice, Steven W. Patterson (PDF)

Harry Potter, Radical Feminism, and the Power of Love, Anne Collins Smith (UHP)

*April 7. N.E.W.T. Quiz*

Week 14, April 10, 12, 14 🖱️ *Luck and Love*

Moral Luck, Bernard Williams (PDF)

Moral Luck, Thomas Nagel (PDF)

Love Potion No. 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Gregory Bassham (UHP)

*April 12-14, TBD*

Week 15, April 17, 19, 21 🖱️ *The Marauders Map and the Ministry*

Orwellian Themes in Harry Potter, Stephanie Smith (PDF)

Use Facebook Messenger? Marauders Map app can pinpoint your location to within 3 feet,

Darlene Storm ([web](#))

*April 19-21, Quidditch Tournament*

Week 16, April 24-28 🖱️ *Exam Week*

*April 26, Long Scroll Due*