

Philosophy Department Newsletter



This is the first Philosophy Department Newsletter. We will be publishing periodically concerning items of interest to students of philosophy at Lakehead University.

Welcome Back from the Chair of Philosophy!

As we are about to begin another academic year we might do well to remember some sage advice from Dr. Szell (Laurence Olivier) in the movie *Marathon Man*. As he is preparing to torture PhD student Babe (Dustin Hoffman) with a dentist drill, he says: "I envy you your school days. Enjoy them fully."



Laurence Olivier photo still *Marathon Man*

Paul Fussell, who taught English for many years at Rutgers University, observed that "for a professor the year begins in September, not January. The resolutions most people make at New Year's the professor makes at the beginning of a new college year."¹ The same is undoubtedly true – and probably to a greater extent - of student life. We in the Philosophy Department wish all our students an illuminating and fulfilling academic new year free of dentist drills. - *Dr. Richard Maundrell*

¹Fussell, *Doing Battle: The Making of A Skeptic* (Little, Brown & Company), 220.

Special points of interest:

- Lakehead University 50th Anniversary Homecoming
- Academic Counselling in the Philosophy Department
- What's New in Special Topics Courses for 2015-2016
- Why You Want to be a Philosophy Major

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Lakehead University 50th Anniversary

Lakehead University will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Homecoming, October 2-4, 2015. All current and former philosophy students are welcome at **The Embassy** (above the Hoito, 314 Bay Street) Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm.

A full program of intellectual stimulation is planned.

Join the Philosophy Department in 'hoisting a pint' to fifty years of philosophy at Lakehead University.

Cash bar. Admission is free.

Philosophy Reunion

50 Years

50th Anniversary Celebrations
Friday, October 2, 2015
Embassy Club (above the Hoito)

All past and present Philosophy Students are welcome.
7:00 pm Doors Open, Admission Free

PROGRAM

7:30 'Nothing to Hide?' The Problem of Privacy in the Age of New Surveillance'
• presenter Chris Wood (wood.philosophy@lakehead.ca)

8:30 'The Politics of Macabre Animal Art: Ontological Interruptions & Rogue Taxidermy'
• presenter Miranda Nibryan (mnbryan.philosophy@lakehead.ca)

9:30 'Dancing the Body'
• introduction Dr. Clara Sacchetti-Dufresne, followed by 'Dahab and Nour from the World Dance Centre'

Lakehead University Department of Philosophy



Dr. Jason Blahuta photo

Academic Counselling

With the start of a new academic year it is always a good idea to review your course selections, academic plan and postgraduate options with our faculty advisor, Dr. J. Blahuta.

You can make an appointment by emailing jblahuta@lakeheadu.ca



Dr. Blahuta has his office on the third floor of the Ryan Building, Office 3009.

Special Topic: 'Terrorism', Genocide and Human Rights

This course is being offered on campus

*Monday Evenings
7:00 pm
through
10:00 pm*

During the upcoming winter semester the Philosophy Department will be offering a Special Topic course (2715) to be co-taught by adjunct professors Dr. C. Sacchetti-Dufresne and Dr. R. Matthews. This special course applies philosophy to major problems of our time – so think about taking the course, or just surveying it for interest.

This topic is of definite interest to philosophy, political science, and anthropology majors. Read more --

This half-course examines the multiple and divergent national and international understandings of "terrorism," genocide, and human rights. To this end, it explores liberal and Marxist notions of justice; traditional and contemporary theories of ethics; and current epistemologies that undergird the many meanings of violence and human rights. These philosophical approaches are considered in light of case studies from ethnographic, sociological, and historical work on a number of important themes, including: rape, torture, poverty, income inequality, gender and sexualities, race, and ethnicity.

Incoming LUSU President, Philosophy Student

Philosophy would like to congratulate our student, Michael (Roman) Jakubowski, for being elected as your LUSU President.

Ask Roman about student governance and get involved in making Lakehead University an even better experience.



Roman Jakubowski photo

Upcoming Philosophy Events

Philosophy Event in the Making –

This fall, Philosophy will host an event celebrating the publication of Dr. Blahuta's new book:

"Fortune and the Dao: A Comparative Study of Machiavelli, the Daodejing, and the Han Feizi."

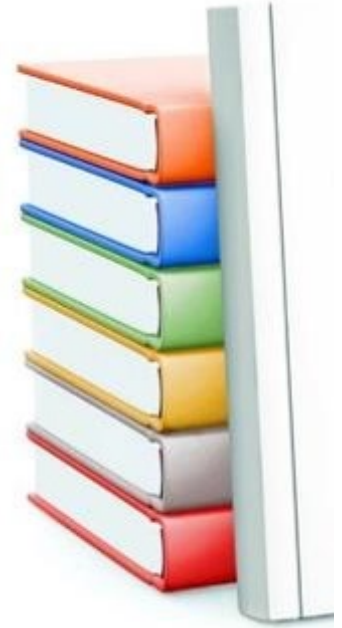
In the meantime, here is a link to the book on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Fortune-Dao-Comparative-Machiavelli-Philosophy/dp/1498500528/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1441900929&sr=8-2&keywords=blahuta%2C+Jason



A Comparative Study of Machiavelli, the Daodejing, and the Han Feizi

FORTUNE AND THE DAO

Jason P. Blahuta



Philosophy in the News

Two recent articles report on job prospects in Philosophy – and provide powerful reasons for studying philosophy. The third article reports more generally about the value of the arts. The fourth references standardized tests.

1. "Salaries of Philosophy Majors Over Time"

<http://dailynous.com/2015/09/04/salaries-of-philosophy-majors-over-time/>

2. "The Earning Power of Philosophy Majors"

<http://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2015/09/philosophy-majors-out-earn-other-humanities/403555/>

3. "Why an arts degree still gets you a great job"

http://www.thestar.com/business/personal_finance/2015/09/07/why-an-arts-degree-still-gets-you-a-great-job-mayers.html

4. Time and again philosophy students come out on top in standardized tests.

<http://www.physicscentral.com/buzz/blog/index.cfm?potid=5112019841346388353>

"We hear again and again that employers value creative problem solving and the ability to deal with ambiguity in their new hires, and I can't think of another major that would better prepare you with those skills than the study of philosophy."

Lakehead University Philosophy Student Club

The Philosophy Students' Club became active again late last year with 26 members – so look to get involved!

For information go to their Facebook page "Lakehead University Philosophy Society."





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Dr. Maundrell is the Chair of the Department. His office is on the third floor of the Ryan Building, Office 3001. To meet with your Chair, please stop by the office or email rmaundre@lakeheadu.ca

What is Philosophy?
Philosophy is concerned with the most fundamental questions: "What is truth? What is knowledge? What is the good? What is justice? How should we live?" However, philosophy is not just a subject of study but a discipline involving the practical skills of thinking.

Philosophy will Include:
*study of assumptions and concepts in science and society
examination and criticism of fundamental ideas
critical and practical thinking*

If you have news or information that you would like us to share in the newsletter or on our website, forward to rmaundre@lakeheadu.ca

Visit our website
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/philosophy>



Philosophy Reunion

50th Anniversary Celebrations

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● presenter Chris Wood (Guelph PhD candidate in Philosophy)

8:30 'The Politics of Macabre Animal Art: Ontological Interruptions & Rogue Taxidermy'

● presenter Miranda Niittynen (Western PhD candidate in Women's Studies & Feminist Research)

9:30 'Dancing the Body'

● introduction Dr. Clara Sacchetti-Dufresne, followed by 'Dahab and Nour from the World Dance Centre'

Event Reminder All past and present Philosophy Students are welcome!



... please check out Lakehead's undergraduate in-course scholarships and awards, you can apply until Thursday, October 15; for more information, please contact Student Awards and Financial Aid at 807 343-8206.



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