PHIL-1301-20600  Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Morgan, Bryan
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Term: Fall 2017
Last day to drop: 11/16/17
Official day of record: 09/13/17

Office Hours

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District Course Requirements

Books

Student Accessibility Resources

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is required to contact the Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) Office located on each campus to schedule an appointment with the Coordinator of SAR. All discussions are confidential. Because SAR accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, students are encouraged to contact SAR as early in the semester as possible. SAR is responsible for approving and coordinating all disability-related services. TCC professors will honor requests for accommodation when they are issued by SAR.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2017, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public community college campuses, except in locations the College establishes as prohibited. Prohibited areas include but are not limited to Theater and Performance Halls, Health Services, Testing Services, Counseling Services, Physical Education, Early College High School Programs, Child Care Facilities, and the TCC Police Department. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more specific TCC regulations, [http://www.tccd.edu/services/police-department/open-carry/campus-carry-regulations/](http://www.tccd.edu/services/police-department/open-carry/campus-carry-regulations/). For emergency information, please go to the following link: [https://www.tccd.edu/about/emergency-information/](https://www.tccd.edu/about/emergency-information/).

Course Evaluation

Student participation in the evaluation process is critical to the college’s commitment to quality teaching and academic excellence. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the process with constructive feedback that is relevant to teaching and course content. The average time to complete the course evaluation is approximately 5-8 minutes. Please take time to share your comments, suggestions, and concerns.

This course may be evaluated between 09/14/17 and 12/14/17. [Course Evaluation](#)

Text(s):


Special Materials:
Focus:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Philosophy 1301 is designed to be an introduction to the methods and content of philosophy as an organized discipline. The course will contain reasoned consideration of major concepts, questions, and schools of thought about human existence; including topics such as knowledge, self, free will, divinity, good and evil, beauty, reality, happiness, and meaning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENT

- The student should gain an understanding of the principal ideas of the major philosophers of the Western intellectual tradition along with an understanding of how these ideas have influenced society.
- The student should demonstrate a basic understanding of the major branches of the discipline of philosophy, with an understanding of the basic questions posed by each branch.
- The student should demonstrate his or her ability in critical/philosophical thinking as he or she pursues the classical discipline in a contemporary setting. The discipline of philosophy will not be approached as merely a set of static historical dogma, but as a personal activity of exploration and discovery.
- The student should demonstrate his or her ability to engage in a critical identification and examination of one’s own beliefs, assumptions and presuppositions.

Requirements:

Exploration Paper: Explore and explain the thought of a major philosopher of the Western tradition regarding how he or she dealt with a particular branch or issue of philosophy. Explore, examine, and explain at least one argument of the selected philosopher. Identify the thinker’s premises (assumptions), inferences from the given premises, and conclusions ultimately reached. As such, this is to be an explanatory/analytical paper. This paper is not to be a biographical overview or to be a summary of the philosopher’s work. This is to be a 3rd person, singular, objective paper (Do not use “I” or “me”). Though you are not to give a personal evaluation of the philosopher’s thought, you may note how other important thinkers have assessed the thinker’s work under consideration. Research must be internally documented (within the body of the text), and there must be a works cited or bibliography page. Use either MLA or Turabian style form in writing. At least five sources are needed; at least one source should be primary and at least two sources should be non-internet. Wikipedia and internet blogs are unacceptable sources. Sources should be both formal and academic. There should be at least four pages of content, along with a properly formatted works cited or bibliography page. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Not only is plagiarism unethical, it is almost always obvious to the experienced college instructor. The one who plagiarizes both steals from others and from his or her own self.

Life Examination Paper: This paper is a critique and examination of a student’s own philosophical suppositions and activity to date. It may be appropriate to explore each major branch of the discipline separately, especially noting areas of greater interest. A changed or changing point of view should be noted. Questions that could be explored in this paper are “What is my worldview and how did I come to this perspective?” This should be a first-person paper because it is about the student’s own philosophical journey. There should be a least four pages of content.

All writing should use Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, with one inch margins. A hardcopy of each assignment must be submitted to the instructor. All assignments and tests must be prefaced with the student’s name, along with course and section numbers.

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester. These will contain an objective portion (mostly short answer and matching) and a subjective integration (short answer or essay). Material for these exams will be taken from class discussions/lectures/handouts and reading materials. Each exam is worth a maximum of 100 points. An exam may take a different form than that which has been described above at the discretion of the instructor. Scantron 886-E is required for each test.

Though student exams and assignments are generally returned to students in a timely manner, the instructor of 1301 is under no obligation to return students’ exams or assignments once exams and assignments have been duly graded and grades have been posted in the blackboard gradebook.

Grading Criteria:

Evaluation System

Three exams—possible 300 points
Exploration (Research) Paper—possible 100 points
Life Examination Paper—possible 100 points

Grading Scale

A (excellent), 450-500 points
B (good), 400-449 points
C (average), 350-399 points
D (poor), 300-349
F (failure), 299 and below

Class Dates:

TEST AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

- Test #1: Monday, October 2.
- Exploration Paper: Wednesday, October 18.
- Test #2: Monday, November 6.
- Life Examination Paper: Wednesday, November 22.
- Test #3: TBA, Finals Week—December 11-14.
### Daily Assignments:

**TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS FROM TEXT (note contents)**

- **Week 1:** What is philosophy? Chapter 1.1, 1.2
- **Week 2:** The Pre-Socratics; The School of Athens; Socrates: 1.6; 1.3
- **Week 3:** Plato; CH 5 “How Can We Know the Nature of Reality?” 1.4
- **Week 4:** Aristotle; Chapter 3
- **Week 5:** Introduction to Logic: “A Look at Logic, Enrichment Chapter” End of text.
- **Week 6:** Introduction to Epistemology: Chapter 5 and 6
- **Week 7:** What is the good life? Epicurus
- **Week 8:** Stoicism; Plotinus: Neo-Platonism
- **Week 9:** Ethics: How should we live? Ch. 7
- **Week 10:** Philosophy of Religion Chapter 4
- **Week 11:** Introduction to Metaphysics; Chapter 3
- **Week 12:** Philosophy of Mind; Chapter 2
- **Week 13:** The Question of Justice; Chapter 8
- **Week 14:** Existentialism; Chapter 9
- **Week 15:** Post-modernism; feminism

### Additional Class Information:

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

All tests will be taken at the scheduled time unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. Make-up of any missed test will be at the discretion of the instructor.

**LATE SUBMISSIONS**

Late submissions of assignments will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Acceptance of any late assignment will be at the discretion of the instructor.

**ATTENDANCE**

The instructor reserves the right to drop a student who has missed more than 15% of regularly scheduled classes. If a student is having difficulty in attending class for whatever reason, it is important that the student contact the instructor.

**CHILDREN ON CAMPUS**

Children are not to be brought on campus or into the classroom.

**Critical Thought**

The campus emphasis on critical thought will be integrated into the course, through discussion and special evaluation.

*Any portion of this syllabus may be altered or modified at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.*

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Students are responsible for adhering to the TCCD policy on scholastic dishonesty as stated in the online Student Handbook at the address below.


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TCCD Academic Calendar for important College Dates.
TCCD Student Handbook for information on attendance and withdrawal policy, dishonesty and plagiarism, and student accessibility resources.
Access Course Evaluations for instructions on evaluating courses.
Attendance for attendance requirements.