**Division: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences**

**Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 101**

**Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy**

**Spring 2017**

**Credit hours: 3**

**Monday/Wednesday, 11:15-12:30**

Instructor: Ashli Anda

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: ashli.anda@heartland.edu

**Catalog Description (Concurrent Enrollment in ENGL 101):**

This course is an introduction to philosophical questioning and to the rudiments of philosophical ways of reasoning. This course will examine selected key notions of philosophy, especially in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and social/political philosophy.

**Texts**

You do not have to purchase a book for this course. All texts will be provided in class or on Blackboard.

**Relationship to Academic Development Programs and Transferability:**

PHIL 101 fulfills 3 of the semester hours of credit in Humanities/Fine Arts required for the A.A. or A.S. degree. This course should transfer as part of the General Education Core Curriculum described in the Illinois Articulation Initiative to other Illinois colleges and universities participating in the IAI. However, students should consult an academic advisor for transfer information regarding particular institutions. Refer to the IAI web page for information as well at www.itransfer.org.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Course Outcomes and General Education Outcomes:**

After successfully completing the course students should be able to

1. Define the prominent sub-disciplines of philosophy and distinguish the main questions of those particular sub-disciplines (CT1).

2. Identify the perennial problems of philosophy and the various solutions philosophers have proposed to solve those problems (PS2).

3. Summarize and appraise the solutions that have been proposed to solve the perennial philosophical problems (PS3).

4. Analyze critically the assumptions that underpin a particular philosopher’s perspective or beliefs.

5. Demonstrate knowledge of a diversity of philosophical problems and viewpoints from various cultures and perspectives (DI2).

6. Improve the ability to aptly comprehend difficult philosophical texts and support those interpretations with reasons and textual evidence (CT1).

7. Exhibit responsibility for learning by participating in critical and creative dialogues about philosophical issues and concepts (CO1, CO2).

8. Demonstrate the ability to speak and write analytically and critically about philosophical issues, supporting opinions with arguments, evidence, and reasoning (CO1, CO2, CT2, CT3).

**Course Outline:**

1. The Existence of God

2. Knowledge, Skepticism, and Belief

3. The Moral Life

4. Metaphysics and/or Philosophy of Mind

**REQUIRED WRITING AND READING:**

The number of pages to be read per week will average between 10 and 20 pages, but because of the difficulty of philosophical reading, most readings will need to be read at least twice. The number of papers to be written in the course and the length of papers will vary across instructors, but the total number of written pages for the course will generally be at least 10-12 pages.

**Method of Evaluation**

Grades will be determined by the following:

* attendance 15%
* participation (online and in class) 15%
* three short writing assignments (1-2 pages) 30% total
* two papers (5-7 pages) 40% total

**Grading Scale**

**A= 90-100% B= 80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=<60%**

**Attendance**

I allow four free absences; that is two whole weeks of absences that will not affect your grade- no questions asked! However, you must speak with me if you encounter extreme circumstances that will result in more absences so that we can work together to ensure that you complete your assignments. Absences beyond the four free ones will require documentation. Any unexcused absences will result in a loss of 2% per absence from your overall final grade for the course.

**Participation & Tardy Policy**

Participation includes but is not limited to: regular attendance, preparation (reading before class meetings and bringing the readings with you), and contribution to discussion (either answering or asking questions). Being more than 10 minutes late to class counts as an unexcused absence thereby resulting in a loss of 2% per excessive tardy from your overall final grade for the course.

**Written Assignments**

You are responsible for submitting a total of three short papers. You can choose the topic but it must pertain to one of the unit topics below. Each paper’s topic must be from a different unit; this means that you cannot write three short papers on the same topic. I will explain the format and requirements in class. All three must be submitted by April 13th. The longer papers (5-7 pages) can either be an expansion of one of your shorter papers or a reply to a prompt that I will provide.

**Tentative Schedule**

I reserve the right to adjust or change the reading schedule as needed.

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| **UNIT 1** | **WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?** |
| January 16th | Campus Closed; Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| January 18th | Introductions & Course Plan |
| January 23rd | Lewis Vaughn, *How to Read Philosophy* pp. 3-13 |
| January 25th | Planning, Writing, and Fallacies (handouts), Vaughn *How to Read Philosophy* pp. 13-20 |
| January 30th | Richard Osborne, *Philosophy for Beginners* pp. 1-4 |
| February 1st | Plato, Nietzche- selected passages on Blackboard |
| **UNIT 2** | **EXISTENCE OF GOD** |
| February 6th | William Paley, *The Argument from Design* pp. 32-37 |
| February 8th | Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* Prima Pars, Question 2, Article 3 |
| February 13th | Anselm, *Proslogion* Chapter 3; Proslogion notes |
| February 15th | Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* 233, selection; Peter Kreeft, “The Argument from Pascal’s Wager” |
| February 20th | Bertrand Russell, *Why I am not a Christian* pp. 1-5 |
| February 22nd | Bertrand Russell, *Why I am not a Christian* pp. 6-11 |
| **UNIT 2** | **EPISTEMOLOGY; KNOWLEDGE/SCEPTICISM/BELIEF** |
| February 27th | René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, I |
| March 1st | Plato, *Theaetetus* 151e-152d, 186d-187d |
| March 6th | Edmund Gettier, *Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?* |
| March 8th | Robert Nozick, *Knowledge and Scepticism* selections |
| March 13-15th | NO CLASS! Spring Break March 12th-19th! |
| **UNIT 3** | **MORALITY & CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL ISSUES** |
| March 20th | Rachels, *A Short Introduction to Moral Philosophy* pp.1-19 (highlighted selections) |
| March 22nd | Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections) |
| March 27th | Mill, *Utilitarianism* (selections) |
| March 29th | Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (selections) |
| April 3rd | No class; instructor away. Reschedule/make arrangements |
| April 5th | Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, and Morality* |
| April 10th | Continue Singer’s *Famine, Affluence, and Morality*  **4-6 page midterm paper due by 11:59 PM!** |
| April 12th | Garrett Hardin, *Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor* |
| April 17th | Philippa Foot, *The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of Double Effect* |
| April 19th | Judith Jarvis Thomson, *Defense of Abortion* |
| **UNIT 4** | **METAPHYSICS** |
| April 24th | William R. Carter, *The Elements of Metaphysics* Chapter 1, pp.1-7 |
| April 26th | William R. Carter, *The Elements of Metaphysics* Chapter 7, pp. 90-97 |
| May 1st | William R. Carter, *The Elements of Metaphysics* Chapter 7, pp. 97-103 |
| May 3rd | William R. Carter, *The Elements of Metaphysics* Chapter 7, pp.104-105 |
| May 8th | TBD; Writing Workshop |
| May 10th | TBD; Last day of class |
| **May 15th** | **Final 4-6 page paper due by 11:59 PM!** |

**Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students in violation will fail the course and be reported to the college. See the following for more information: https://www.heartland.edu/documents/aqip/AcademicIntegrity/policy.pdf

**HCC Midterm Withdrawal Policy**

Because you are currently enrolled in this course, you are expected to actively pursue completion of it. In accordance with HCC policy, at the end of the eighth week of the course I must withdraw students who have not completed 60% or more of the required assignments, who have five or more unexcused absences, and who have missed class for two consecutive weeks without giving me notice.

**Classroom Conduct**

My classroom is an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and opinions. Discussion about varying opinions should remain civilized and respectful. Intimidating, demeaning, obscene, and injurious language or behavior will not be permitted. I reserve the right to dismiss students from class who are disruptive or disrespectful either to me or other students.

**Grade Complaints**

I am more than happy to speak with you if you have a complaint about a grade. Should you have such a complaint, you must do two things. First, you must wait at least 24 hours before speaking to me about it. While you wait, look over your work and the comments I have provided and identify what you believe to be the discrepancy. Second, you must give me a short, written statement (at least one paragraph) about why there is a discrepancy between the work you provided and the grade you received. This discussion must take place during my office hours (or at another time we agree to meet). You have seven days from the time I hand back the assignment to come forward with your complaint and written statement. Grades are incontestable past seven days.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Late Assignments**

Late assignments will lose one-third of a grade (e.g., from A to A-) for each day late up to three days. I highly encourage you to submit late assignments rather than none.

**Extra Credit**

I do not offer extra credit.

**Accommodations**

If you require additional accommodations due to a disability, you must first submit documentation to DSS who will then recommend authorized accommodation options.

You can use this table below to track your grade over the course of the semester.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Due Date/Date Turned In | Score | Total Possible Points |
| Attendance |  |  | 150 |
| Participation |  |  | 150 |
| Short Paper One |  |  | 100 |
| Short Paper Two |  |  | 100 |
| Short Paper Three |  |  | 100 |
| Midterm Paper | March 9, 2016 |  | 200 |
| Final Paper | May 15, 2016 |  | 200 |
| Totals |  |  | 1,000 |

1. Policy taken from Dr. Colleen Murphy (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)