



Phil 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
Tim Cowan
Lone Star College System
Montgomery Campus

Syllabus

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Course description

This course is a study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

CREDIT: 3 hours

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 0305 or 0316 and ENGL 0307 or 0326

Texts

Castell, Borchert, and Zucker. Introduction to Modern Philosophy
Seventh Edition.

Course Structure

Each class will consist of discussion and analysis of readings, lectures by the instructor, and collaborative work.

Attendance

More than six absences will require you to go to registration and withdraw from the class. In the case of an absence, it is your responsibility to try and catch up, e.g. contacting a fellow student or the instructor for missed handouts, notes, and assignments. In class assignments cannot be made up.

Participation

Participation is crucial for success in this class. If a student is not in class he/she cannot participate, therefore absences, tardiness, and leaving class early **will** have a negative on effect your grade. Class participation is strongly encouraged and will be rewarded.

Grading

Grades are based on three exams, writing assignments, in-class assignments, and class participation. The weight of your grade will break down as follows.

Exams will account for 75% of your final grade, each one being worth 25%. Weekly writing assignments* will account for the remaining 25% of your grade.

Keep track of your grade, and meet with me to make sure our records are consistent. If a discrepancy should arise take care of it immediately, by bringing it to my attention.

If at any time you feel overwhelmed don't wait to address the issue, ask for help as soon as you feel you need it.

The course grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

90-100 = A
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 F

Withdrawals

To withdraw from the course, students must initiate an official withdrawal in person through the campus drop/add procedure. Check the schedule for posted dates. Students who do not complete the class but do not officially withdraw will receive an "F".

This link to the Lonestar website provides dates for the last day you can drop a class.
www.lonestar.edu/schedule/

Class Cancellations

If the instructor is not present fifteen minutes after class is scheduled to begin, the class is cancelled for the day.

ADA Statement

If you require reasonable accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please notify the instructor of the course within the first two weeks of class.

Counseling

If you find yourself in any kind of personal 'distress' during the semester, please see the BELS Division counselors Angela Martin (273-7070, building G office 120G), or Rachel Phelps (271-6157, building G office 220C). They offer personal, academic, and career counseling and can put you in touch with other helpful campus resources. The following link may also serve as a guide for success at the college level (<http://montgomery.lonestar.edu/109003/>).

Statement of Student Responsibilities

In order to promote an acceptable learning environment, students enrolled at LoneStar Community College are expected to conduct themselves as responsible individuals. No student shall behave in a manner, which, in the opinion of the instructor endangers the rights and/or safety of other students or staff.

1. Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain until the class session is completed, except in emergencies or illness (which can be documented). No student shall leave or re-enter a classroom during class except for emergencies or illness, or engage in any other disruptive classroom behavior. Disruptive classroom behavior includes sleeping, coming in late, cell phones, and laptops not intended for classroom purposes (engaging in any of the aforementioned will result in being marked absent for the day, as well as the removal of all extra credit possibilities).

2. No student shall engage in behavior, which, in the judgment of the instructor of the class may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as the acquisition (without permission) of tests or other academic material and/or distribution of the same. This includes students who assist or attempt such behavior.

3. No student shall engage in harassment of another student or staff member of the college. This shall include, but not be limited to sexual or racial harassment, and may include verbal and/or physical action.

4. No student shall threaten or commit a physical or verbal attack on faculty, staff, or another student.

Failure to adhere to any of these responsibilities will result in disciplinary action according to the disciplinary policy presented in the LoneStar College Systems catalogue.

Learning Outcomes

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

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The following is a tentative schedule, which is subject to change at the instructor's say so and sanction.

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction/What, is philosophy?	Read: Bertrand Russell Asgn: Why do Philosophy?
2	Ancient philosophy	Read: Ch. 1 Asgn: The Unexamined Life
3	Socrates and Plato	Read: Ch. 5.2 and 5.3 Asgn: Kant or Mill
4	Plato and Aristotle/Ethics	Read: Ch. 5.5 and Gyges Ring Asgn: Why be Moral
5	Ethics/Logic	Read: Ch. 4.1 and 4.2 Asgn: What is the best proof?/study!
6	Exam #1 /Philosophy of Religion	Read: Ch. 2.1 Asgn: What am I certain of?
7	Religion/Descartes	Read: Ch. 2.2 Asgn: Mind or Body
8	Skepticism/Mind and Body	Read: Ch. 3.1 Asgn: Am I free in writing?
9	Mind and Body II	Read: Study Asgn: The experience machine!
10	Exam #2	Read: Ch. 8.5 Asgn: Is it knowledge?
11	Determinism	Read: 8.6 and Gettier Asgn: Am I in Italy?
12	Epistemology I	Read: Ch. 7.2 and 7.4 Asgn: What is art?
13	Epistemology II	Read: Epilogue II (579-586) Asgn: Is it the same shirt?
14	Aesthetics (what is art?)	Read: Notes Asgn: none
15	Metaphysics	Read: Study Asgn: TBA
16	Exam #3	Date and Time of the Final is laid out in the schedule of classes.

*There are 14 writing assignments, of which, only your 10 best will count toward your grade. Each writing assignment will be a short (2-page max) reaction paper based on that weeks reading, to be handed in the following week. **Late papers will not be accepted**, however in the case of an absence papers may be e-mailed to me. Each paper over the required 10 will count as extra credit.