

Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 102)

Instructors:

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Office Hours: Thursday 4:40-5:30, or by appointment // Liberal Arts Building, room LA-148

Course Dates/Times: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-4:40, May 25 - June 30

Course Location: Liberal Arts Building, room LA-108

Webpage: <http://www.mccc.edu/~howarthk/PhilFacYetter.htm>

Course Coordinator: Ken Howarth // LA-119 // 570-3809 // howarthk@mccc.edu

Catalogue Description: A study of the basic problems and methods of philosophical inquiry. Topics include theories about knowledge, reality, human nature, ethics, religion and science, with consideration of the thought of such major thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche and Sartre. [Does not require a PHI prerequisite] 3 lecture hours

Texts:

A Rulebook for Arguments (RA), Andrew Weston

Looking at Philosophy (LP), Donald Palmer

Early Modern Primary Texts, ed. Jonathan Bennett: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>

Euthyphro, Plato: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>

Optional Text: What Does It All Mean?, Thomas Nagel

Grading Breakdown:

Participation (including attendance & active participation): 15%

Quizzes (4, dropping the lowest): 3 x 10% = 30%

Writing Assignments (4, dropping the lowest): 3 x 10% = 30%

Final: 25%

Optional Oral Presentation (on a topic of your choice): Extra credit of up to 3% of total grade

The oral presentation will be the only extra credit that is given (outside of possible EC questions on quizzes/exams). You'll be expected to give a 10 minute presentation on a topic of your choice. If you're interested in doing an oral presentation, let us know in advance, so that we can discuss topics and help you to plan it.

Grade Scale:

A = 93% or higher
A- = 90% to 92%
B+ = 87% to 89%
B = 83% to 86%
B- = 80% to 82%
C+ = 77% to 79%
C = 70% to 76%
D = 60% to 69%
F = below 60%

Policy on Late Work:

Assignments will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesdays. We will accept late work the following Thursday, at the penalty of one full letter grade. After that, you will receive a 'zero' for the assignment.

Attendance Policy:

For each class you miss without a legitimate excuse, *at least* 1 point of your participation grade will be deducted. (More may be deducted if frequent absences affect your overall active class participation.)

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on Thursdays. Missed quizzes will count as a 'zero' (though your lowest quiz grade is dropped).

If you have a good reason to miss class (e.g. family emergency, illness, problems with childcare), let us know by email ASAP. It may be possible to make up missed work in special circumstances.

Attendance in this class is extremely important for three reasons:

1. Because the summer session is condensed, classes are very long. Missing one class is like missing three during the regular year!
2. Reading the book is *not* a substitute for coming to class. The book covers a lot of material, very superficially. In class, we'll discuss the reading. But we'll also pick up on two-three main topics from the reading, and delve into them in detail. If you're not in class, you'll miss out on this.
3. You learn philosophy by *doing* philosophy. Philosophers do much of their work by discussing/arguing about ideas with other philosophers. Classes give you an opportunity to discuss your thoughts with others, to get feedback on your ideas, and to craft responses.

Schedule:

1.1: *Introduction; Critical Thinking; Ancient Philosophy (Presocratics, Socrates)*

RA: I-III, V-VI

LP: 58-62

Optional Reading: LP: 1-48

1.2: Ancient Philosophy (Plato, Aristotle): *The Forms, State & Soul, Euthyphro Dilemma, Virtue*

LP: 63-86

Euthyphro: <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>

2.1: Medieval Philosophy: *Existence of God, Free Will, Universals*

LP: 113-118, 123-126, 132-151

1st Paper Due

2.2: Modern Philosophy (Descartes): *Skepticism & Rationalism*

LP: 160-180

Quiz 1

3.1: Modern Philosophy (Descartes): *Mind-Body Problem*

Meditations Excerpt: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/descmed.pdf>

Pages: 4-5, 27-29, 32-33

2nd Paper Due

3.2: Modern Philosophy (Locke, Hume): *Personal Identity, Empiricism, Causation*

LP: 196-200, 209-218

An Essay Concerning Human Understanding: <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfbits/lo24.pdf>

Pages: 113-118

Quiz 2

4.1: Modern Philosophy (Berkeley, Kant): *Nature of Reality, Noumenal v. Phenomenal, Time & Space*

LP: 204-208, 218-227

3rd Paper Due

4.2: Modern Philosophy (Hobbes, Locke, Kant), *Utilitarianism: Egoism, Deontology, Utilitarianism*

LP: 180-185, 200-203, 227-231, 288-296

Quiz 3

5.1: Analytic Philosophy (Frege, Moore, Russell, Logical Positivism); *Fun Topic 1*

LP: 296-302, 318-337

4th Paper Due

5.2: *Fun Topic 2; Review*

No reading, just studying for the final!

Quiz 4

6.1: ***Final Exam***

Classroom Etiquette:

Distracting behavior is not fair to those who want to learn. This means...

- Be punctual; if you have to arrive late, be quiet and don't disrupt the class
- Computers are fine for taking notes; *not* for surfing Facebook
- No cell phones: Put them on vibrate, don't text
- No iPods, etc.
- No sleeping
- Food is fine, as long as it's not distracting or messy

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarism are bad. Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. MCCC's official policy on cheating is at the end of the syllabus. It outlines in detail what counts as a violation of academic integrity. If you're not sure whether something counts as cheating/plagiarizing, just ask!

Violations of academic integrity:

- The first violation will result in an irreplaceable zero on the assignment. (That means that if it's a quiz or paper, it won't be dropped as your lowest.)
- The second violation will result in an 'F' in the course.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student in this class who has special needs because of a disability is entitled to receive accommodations. Eligible students at Mercer County Community College are assured services under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you believe you are eligible for services, please contact Arlene Stinson, the Director of Academic Support Services at LB221, (609) 570-3525, stinsona@mccc.edu.

Additionally, please let us know about any documented disabilities, so we can help to accommodate them.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY [As found @ <http://mlink.mccc.edu/omb/OMB210.pdf>]

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity – the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work, and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty. The college recognizes the following general categories of violations of Academic Integrity, with representative examples of each. Academic Integrity is violated whenever a student:

A. Uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work.

- copying from another student's exam.
- using notes, books, electronic devices or other aids of any kind during an exam when prohibited.
- stealing an exam or possessing a stolen copy of an exam.

B. Gives fraudulent assistance to another student.

- completing a graded academic activity or taking an exam for someone else.
- giving answers to or sharing answers with another student before, during or after an exam or other graded academic activity.
- sharing answers during an exam by using a system of signals.

C. Knowingly represents the work of others as his/her own, or represents previously completed academic work as current.

- submitting a paper or other academic work for credit which includes words, ideas, data or creative work of others without acknowledging the source.
- using another author's words without enclosing them in quotation marks, without paraphrasing them or without citing the source appropriately.
- presenting another individual's work as one's own.
- submitting the same paper or academic assignment to another class without the permission of the instructor.
- falsifying bibliographic entries.
- submitting any academic assignment which contains falsified or fabricated data or results.

D. Inappropriately or unethically uses technological means to gain academic advantage.

- inappropriately or unethically acquiring material via the Internet or by any other means.
- using any electronic or hidden devices for communication during an exam.

Each instructor and academic support service area is authorized to establish specific guidelines consistent with this policy.

Consequences for Violations of Academic Integrity: For a single violation, the faculty member will determine the course of action to be followed. This may include assigning a lower grade on the assignment, assigning a lower final course grade, failing the student in the course, or other penalty appropriate to the violation. In all cases, the instructor shall notify the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee of the violation and the penalty imposed. When two (or more) violations of academic integrity are reported on a student, the Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) may impose disciplinary penalties beyond those imposed by the course instructors. The student shall have the right to a hearing before the AIC or a designated AIC subcommittee.

Appeals: The student has a right to appeal the decision of the instructor or the Academic Integrity Committee. Judicial procedures governing violations of Academic Integrity are contained in the Student Handbook.

Approved: Board of Trustees May 19, 1983 Revised: May 18, 2000, March 18, 2004