



Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1301)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None.

Course Description

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.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. *Ways of Knowing, Selected Readings* Kevin E. Dodson & John Avery, Eds. 2nd revised edition, 2000. Kendall/Hunt.
 - a. ISBN number is 0-7872-7334-1.
2. *Roll Away the Stone* by Fred Taylor, 2nd edition, 2008. Information International.
 - a. ISBN number is 978-1-882480-15-9.
3. A package of #882 scantrons and two #2 pencils.
4. Use of the library, Internet, and current information sources such as newspapers, TV and journals.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

Core Objectives

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Personal Responsibility:** To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
4. **Social Responsibility:** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Outline

- A. Welcome to Philosophy:
 - 1. What is philosophy, and why is it important?
 - 2. This is a course to introduce the study of ALL knowledge
 - 3. What does it mean to “know” something? HOW do we know it?
 - 4. Questions I have; things I have wondered about
 - 5. Thinking about our thinking
- B. How This Course is Organized (its Concepts)
 - 1. The Four Sources of Knowledge
 - 2. The Four Ways of Thinking
 - 3. The Four Major Philosophical Subjects
 - 4. Amazing stuff about knowledge
 - a. How human knowledge doubles every five years or less
 - b. Why can't I see the moon?
 - c. What you see is not what you get
- C. The Four Sources of Knowledge
 - d. Five senses
 - e. Logical Reasoning
 - f. Intuition
 - g. Authority
- D. The Four Ways of Thinking
 - h. Synoptic
 - i. Analytic
 - j. Activist
- E. The Four Major Philosophical Subjects
 - k. Metaphysics
 - l. Epistemology
 - m. Anthropology
 - n. Sociology//State
- F. Studying the Synoptics: Seeing the “Big Picture”
 - 1. Pythagoras, Socrates and Plato
 - 2. Paul and St. Augustine
 - 3. Descartes
 - 4. Hegel, Kant and Berkeley
 - 5. Albert Einstein
 - 6. Contributions both to Modern Scientific Method and to the Humanities
- G. Studying the Analytics: “Hands on--Break it down”
 - 1. Thales and the Early Greek thinkers
 - 2. Aristotle
 - 3. Francis Bacon
 - 4. John Locke
 - 5. David Hume
 - 6. Contributions both to Modern Scientific Method and to the Humanities
- H. Studying the Activists—“Get Involved”
 - 1. Prophetic Activists: “Get Involved to Make Things Work”
 - a. Karl Marx
 - b. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - c. Chavez
 - d. Others: Women's Rights, Animal Rights, Green Movement, Save the Whales
 - 2. Pragmatists: “Get Involved to Make Things Work”
 - a. William James—“The Cash Value of Ideas”
 - b. C.S. Peirce--
 - c. John Dewey-“We Learn by Doing”
 - 3. Existentialists—“Get Involved to Understand Things”
 - a. A Response to the Horrors of World War II
 - b. When Life Appears Meaningless, You Create Meaning to Survive

PHIL 1301

Course Syllabus

- c. Kierkegaard, Sartre and Camus and Marcus Aurelius
 4. Contributions both to Modern Scientific Method and to the Humanities
 - I. Studying Antinomian Thinkers—“Drop Out. Get Out of Town”
 1. Buddha
 2. Diogenes
 3. Jacques Rousseau
 4. Henry Thoreau
 5. Spinoza
 6. Counter-culture of the 1960s—“Make Love, Not War”
 7. Contributions both to Modern Scientific Method and to the Humanities
 - J. Scientific Epistemology and its Development
 1. Antecedents: Philosophy is the Mother of Science
 - a. Thales
 - b. Aristotle
 2. How Science Separated From Philosophy
 - a. Francis Bacon
 - b. Galileo
 - c. Isaac Newton
 3. New Paradigms:
 - a. Newtonian Physics Breaks from Aristotelianism
 - b. Darwin and Darwinism
 - c. C.S. Peirce as the Father of Modern Scientific Method
 - d. Einstein and Relativistic Physics
 4. Ethical Issues in Modern Science
 5. Relation of Science and the Humanities
 - K Social Philosophy
 1. Basic Questions:
 - a. What is Justice?
- b. What is the fundamental unit of society— individual, family, clans, classes or the State itself?
 - c. Crucial Issues:
 - i. Individual v. Groups
 - ii. Freedom v. security
 - iii. Equality v. Uniqueness
 - iv. Human Law v. Moral Law
 2. Four Social Models
 - a. Functionalism-society as a system of highly interrelated structures or parts that function or operate together harmoniously.
 - b. Conflict Theory-society constantly changing in response to social inequality and social conflict.
 - c. Interactionist Perspective- how individuals make sense of or interpret the social world in which they participate.
 - d. Generative Orientation— Society as a living organism with interacting parts; breakdowns as a sign for needed change for further development.
 - i. The FLOC Experience (read *Roll Away the Stone* by Taylor)
 - ii. Vicious Social Circles v. Liberating Social Circles

PHIL 1301
Course Syllabus

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| iii. Poverty v.
Regeneration | v. Booms, Busts and
Breakthroughs |
| iv. Crime,
Punishment and
Rehabilitation | vi. War v. Peace |
| | vii. Material v.
Spiritual |

Grade Scale

901 – 1020	A
801 – 900	B
701 – 800	C
601 – 700	D
0 – 600	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Attendance	90 points (3 points per class x 30 classes)
2. Class Note Book	180 points (6 grades x 20 points each)
3. Test 1	150 points
4. Test 2	150 points
5. Test 3 (Final Exam)	200 points
6. Assignments	250 points (5 assignments x 50 points each)

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
6. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1/2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with

PHIL 1301

Course Syllabus

documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at <http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

Student Code of Conduct Statement

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.