

## Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 1301

### INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Blake Mires

Email: nbmires@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409-247-5080

Office Location: Technology Center 223

Office Hours: ECHS Campus on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 AM- 10 AM  
LIT Campus on Monday 11:30 AM – 2 PM, Tuesday 10 AM – 2 PM,  
Wednesday 11:30 AM – 12 PM, Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

### CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

### 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.

### 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.

Approved: Initials/date

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. *An Introduction to Philosophy by Russ Payne*  
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/an-introduction-to-philosophy>
2. *Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics edited by George Matthews*  
<https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/>
3. *Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion edited by Beau Branson*  
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/942>
4. Use of the library, Internet, and current information sources such as newspapers, TV and journals.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be recorded and submitted to LIT. Arriving late or leaving early may result in you being marked absent. Attendance is not a grade.

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

## STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

## Assignment Schedule (subject to change with or without notice)

### COURSE CALENDAR

Module	TOPICS AND READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
1	Course Introduction and Policies Discussion of Syllabus What is Philosophy	Syllabus Quiz Module 1 Discussion 9/3/2023
2	How to do Philosophy Ancient Philosophy	Module 2 Journal 9/3/2023

3	Plato's allegory of the cave Rationalism	Module 3 Discussion Board Logic Assignment  Quiz over "What is Philosophy." "How to do Philosophy" and "Ancient Philosophy" 9/10/2023
4	Empiricism Philosophy of Science	Quiz over Rationalism, Empiricism, and Philosophy of Science 9/17/2023
5	Philosophy of Mind Love and Happiness	
6	Meta Ethics Right Action	Module 6 Discussion Quiz over "Philosophy of Mind," " Love and Happiness," and "Meta Ethics" 10/1/2023
7	Social Justice Aren't Right and Wrong Just Matters of Opinion?	Module 7 Journal 10/8/2023
8	Can We Have Ethics without Religion? How Can I Be a Better Person?	Module 8 Discussion Quiz over the "Right Actions," "Social Justice", and "Aren't Right and Wrong Just Matters of Opinion?" 10/15/2023 Common Assignment Due 11/12/2023
9	What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social Contract Theory Utilitarianism	Module 9 Discussion 10/22/2023
10	Kantian Deontology Feminism and Feminist Ethics	Quiz over "Can We Have Ethics without Religion?", "How Can I Be a Better Person?" and "What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social Contract Theory" 10/29/2023
11	Evolutionary Ethics Freedom of the Will	Module 11 Journal Quiz over "Utilitarianism," "Kantian Deontology," and "Feminist Ethics" 11/5/2023
12	The Intertwining of Philosophy and Religion in the Western Tradition Reasons to Believe – Theoretical Arguments	Quiz over " Evolutionary Ethics," "Freedom of the Will," and " The

		Intertwining of Philosophy and Religion in the Western Tradition" 11/12/2023
13	Non-Standard Arguments for God's Existence Reasons Not to Believe	Module 13 Journal Quiz over "Reasons to Believe," "Non-Standard Arguments for God's Existence," and "Reasons Not to Believe" 11/19/2023
14	Debunking Arguments against Theistic Belief From Philosophy of (Mono)theism to Philosophy of Religions	Module 14 Journal 11/26/2023
15	Review Final Exam	Final Exam Extra credit quiz over "Debunking Arguments Against Theistic Belief" 12/3/2023

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Tests and Quizzes | 45% |
| 2. Assignments       | 40% |
| 3. Common Assignment | 15% |

### **GRADE SCALE**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum->

[computer-requirements](#). A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

### **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](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

### **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

1. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard.

2. All homework must be typed and use MLA format for citations:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html)

**Use MLA formatting for the Common Assignment**

3. All homework, papers, and tests must be the work of the student only. The first offense of plagiarism will result minimally in a zero on the assignment. A second offense will result in dismissal from the course. (Student not dropped from the course.)
4. Pen/pencil and paper are required for face-to-face classes
5. Mature behavior is expected at all times.
6. Access to Blackboard and your LIT email is required. **Frequently check for any new announcements.**
7. Late work will not be accepted except in the case of a **documentable emergency** beyond the student's control. Complete assignments and submit them by the due date. You may turn them in early but not after the due date. Technical difficulties and any other issues must be resolved before the due date, and they will not result in a time extension. If you have issues with Blackboard, use the Technical Support link. **Any emails requesting assistance with an assignment must be sent to me on a weekday 48 hours before the assignment is due. You must include your name, course, and class section in your email. Example of course and section: PHIL 1301 3A1**
8. I drop the lowest **discussion, journal, and quiz grade**. You may turn assignments in early, but not after the due date.