Goodwin University

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy
Course Code (Section XX) – 3 Credits

Semester:
Day(s):
Time(s):
Classroom:
Instructor:
Office Hours:
Office Location:
Phone Number:
Email:

INSERT
Professional
Headshot Here

Prerequisite/Co-Requisites: None

Course Description
This course introduces students to a broad range of philosophical issues; readings include major philosophers of the Western tradition: Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, and Sartre. Students will consider issues of ethics, the nature of reality, religious philosophy and the nature of God, the limits of human knowledge, freedom and predestination, and the nature of the good life.

Course Goal
The course may include some analysis of films, as well as news stories and other cultural events and trends. Every effort will be made to provide points of entry for the exercise of critical thought.

Required Text
Bowen, J. (2008) Journey through the landscape of philosophy: A reader. New York, NY: Penguin Academics/Pearson Longman.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes
To learn the basic terminology of philosophy.
To learn basic logical reasoning.
To write clearly and thoughtfully on philosophical issues.
To be able to engage in academic discussion.
To appreciate a diversity of philosophical thought from different cultures and peoples.
To understand, interpret, critique, compare, and apply major philosophical theories.
To relate philosophy to contemporary human problems and conditions.

Grading Policy

Your performance in this course is assessed using multiple, varied methods in the areas listed below and based on the expectations as described in the syllabus and outlined in assessment scoring guides or rubrics. If you do not understand the expectations, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor questions.

Weekly Assessments		60%
Week 1 Reading Response:	10%	
Week 2 Reading Response	10%	
Week 3 Reading Response:	10%	
Week 4 Reading Response:	10%	
Logic Quiz	10%	
Week 6 Reading Response:	10%	
Term Paper		25%
Class Participation (2.5% per unit 2-7)		15%
Total:		**100%**

Coursework Expectations

This section of the syllabus contains a listing with brief descriptions of the assessment methods for this course. They are designed to align with the student-learning outcomes and provide you with varied ways to demonstrate mastery of the course content. ***Additional instructions and related scoring guides or rubrics are posted to Blackboard***.

Reading Response Rubric
- Briefly summarize the reading. (30 points)
- Quote the author at least once. (20 points)
- Cite page numbers when quoting text. (10 points)
- Discuss what you find interesting and relate it to the real world. (40 points)
- (450 word minimum)

Logic Quiz

Multiple Choice questions covering material from Week 5: Logic

Class Participation

Class discussions provide the opportunity to explore what each of you find interesting or difficult about a topic or a reading; participating will help your understanding.

As this is an online class, the class participation will take place on the course message board. There is a specific rubric that must be followed in order to earn full participation credit. Each week (with the exception of the first) begins on Monday and ends Sunday at 11:59 PM. Students must submit remarks to the message board by the second day of the week (usually Tuesday), as well as submit three additional posts to the board on three separate days by Sunday at 11:59 PM. The reason for the need of such staggered participation is that you are expected to respond to the views an comments made by other members of the class.

Discussion posts must reflect some understanding of the assigned material, and may include questions, concerns, arguments for and against a particular philosopher, and any personal observations that are particularly relevant.

Remember, the message board may appear informal, but it is still part of a college course. Comments should be respectful and scholarly.

Weekly Discussion Grading Rubric:
Posts three separate times per week: 60 points
Posts have sufficient detail: 20 points
Responds to the ideas of others: 20 points

Term Paper

You will be required to write an 8-10 page paper on a topic related to the course. After picking your topic, you must develop a thesis on it. Your paper must then argue in support of that thesis by utilizing academic citations from course readings. You may use outside sources, but these are not required.

Your topic can be strictly abstract, dealing with an issue solely in philosophical terms. You also have the option of developing a philosophical thesis about a real-world issue. News events, films, television shows and personal experiences may be incorporated.

Term Paper Rubric
▪ Introduce the issue, presenting both sides of the debate. (10 points)
▪ State your thesis on the issue. (10 points)
▪ Explain the arguments on each side of the issue. (30 points)
▪ Quote readings from the course on each side of the issue. (20 points)
▪ Cite page numbers when quoting text. (10 points)
▪ Explain why your thesis is the best way of approaching the issue. (20 points)

Course Outline / Class Schedule*

Week / Date(s)	Topic(s) To be Covered Each Week	Assignments, Quizzes, and Readings to be Completed *Before* Each Week's First-Class Meeting	Assessment Schedule (Assessments due at the end of each week)
Week 1	Course Overview Branches of Philosophy Taoism	*The Dao De Jing* p.397-404	Reading Response due on Taoism
Week 2	Buddhism	The Four Noble Truths p.387-389	Reading Response due on Buddhism
Week 3	Plato	Plato: "The Allegory of the Cave" p.2-6	Reading Response due on the Allegory of the Cave
Week 4	Aristotle	Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* p. 570-593	Reading Response due on Aristotle
Week 5	Logic	Logic p. xvii-xxvii	Logic Quiz
Week 6	Kant	Kant *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* p.594-607	Reading Response due on Kant
Week 7	Film	Discussion	Term Paper due

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Policies

Blackboard: Blackboard contains class materials such as PowerPoints, worksheets, media, and links for submitting assignments. Be sure to **check Blackboard often** to stay up to date on announcements, new course materials, and other important information. **All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard.**

Late Assignments: Deadlines are an integral part of all professional careers. You must manage your time and complete all coursework thoroughly and on time (e.g., quizzes, exams, papers, projects, discussion board posts). Per department policy, any work submitted to the instructor after the due date will result in a zero for that particular assignment. Late assignments or make-up exams are not permitted except when there are documented extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical and family emergencies), and the instructor has been notified 24 hours before or after the deadline. In circumstances in which the instructor permits a make-up assignments or exams, the format of the task is at the discretion of the instructor.

Communication and E-mail: Students are expected to communicate in a professional manner (i.e., verbal, written, and electronic). I will send course updates and announcements through Blackboard so please **check your Goodwin e-mail account regularly**.

APA Style: This course follows APA style format for all written assignments. All written assignments must be produced using software that is compatible with Blackboard. Assessment of written assignments will include use of APA format, writing, grammar, quotations, and references. Academic Writer is also an available at https://goodwin.libguides.com/academicwriter to help with APA formatting.

Expectations for Written Work: The following are basic expectations for all written work:
1. One-inch margin for all sides of the page (e.g., top, bottom, left, and right side of the page).
2. The font is 12 point.
3. The paper is double spaced.
4. The first page of the paper includes:
   - ✓ Your full name
   - ✓ The date of submission

Goodwin College Policies and Services
This course adheres to all policies outlined in the Goodwin College catalog.

General academic policies of Goodwin College may be found on the college web site at and in the college catalog at http://www.goodwin.edu/academics/catalogs.asp.

Student services information may be found on the Goodwin College website at https://www.goodwin.edu/student-affairs/ and http://www.goodwin.edu/library/.