

# HTH283 Introduction to Philosophy



**Pathways**

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium

*We're delighted to have you study at RMC! Please note the following policies:*

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback.

### **Online Courtesy**

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

### **RMC Grading Policy**

#### **Grade GradePoint A+**

	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter. A-
	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter. C-
	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality. D-
	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading. IN
	Incomplete	
VW		Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.
AU		Audit - No grade awarded. Indicates that a minimum of 75% of classes have been attended.

### **Grading Scale**

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 89-92
B+ 85-88	B 80-84	B- 76-79
C+ 72-75	C 67-71	C- 60-66
D 55-59	F 0-54	

## Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College

### A. Plagiarism Defined

**Plagiarism** - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

### B. Penalties

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

### C. Penalties and Their Application

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

*Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."*

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright ©1998 University of Calgary

**HTH283 Principles of Philosophy**  
**Rocky Mountain College**  
**Credits: 3**

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed as an introduction to philosophy. One focus is to gain a familiarity with the issues of philosophy by reading contributions by various figures of Western philosophy. A second focus is to gain an appreciation for philosophical thinking, discussion and methodology in the context of the everyday conversation. A final focus will be to explore how philosophic principles can be used to enrich the student's daily life, in short, to live wisely. Prerequisite: HTH180.

**B. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Realizing that we all must depend upon God and the diligent effort required by instructor and student, the professor will strive to teach so that students who complete the course should be able to:

1. Have some familiarity with the major figures in the tradition of philosophy;
2. Understand the major terms of this field of study;
3. Articulate and defend a thoughtful personal position on the questions covered in the course;
4. Gain skills using appropriate philosophical tools: to analyze, assess, and argue;
5. Grasp philosophical ideas purveyed by pop culture, and respond appropriately from a Christian worldview;
6. Explore concepts, problems, and methods of philosophy;
7. Increase their capacity to think critically—and sensitively—about some traditional problems of philosophy;
8. Increase self-confidence and self-knowledge through reflection, reading, and discussion;
9. Develop critical reading and thinking skills;
10. Engage in student-led discussion of course material.

**C. COURSE TEXTS:**

Buckingham, Will et. al. The Philosophy Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained. DK: London, 2011.  
Archie, John G. Reading for Philosophical Inquiry. Available as PDF download in course.  
The Holy Bible, any version. (Hard Copy)

**D. COURSE OUTLINE:**

Module 1	10.5 hours	Effort, Argument Validity
Module 2	9.5 hours	Logic
Module 3	10.5 hours	Epistemology I (Rationalism/Empiricism)
Module 4	12 hours	Epistemology II (Authority and Tradition, Belief Conservation)
Module 5	11 hours	Telos, Essence, Metaphysics (Mind/ Body)
Module 6	13 hours	God's Existence

Module 7	9 hours	Moral Agency
Module 8	12 hours	The Problem of Evil, Theodicies
Module 9	10 hours	Fear of Death, Life After Death, Miracles
Module 10	7 hours	Aesthetics, Great Philosophers

## **E. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be 10 reflection papers, one reflection paper for each lesson. Each reflection paper will have a value of 30 points and should be between 250-500 words.

Value: 60%

Students will write ten reflection papers based on the topics provided. Each paper will conform to the RMC style guidelines (Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced); for detailed guidelines, please see the RMC website. Papers will be 1000 words and will include a title page and bibliography. Reflection papers are not research papers, nor are they opinion papers or theology papers. Topics will be provided in class. The papers will:

Step 1. Include a summary of the problem being discussed. Clearly state both sides of the argument, without judgement or evaluation.

Step 2. Briefly explain why the subject is being discussed. In other words, the student should demonstrate that they understand the importance of the subject.

Step 3. Choose a side and defend it. The student will carefully weigh the evidence presented in the course material (lecture, readings, etc). If the student cannot find agreement with a position presented, they should develop their own. Keep in mind that evidence FOR and AGAINST should both be weighed.

Step 4. Use the philosophical tools presented in class to articulate your position. Use philosophical language and terms. Remember that the course is about thinking philosophically, and sometimes that means identifying pertinent side issues. Philosophical thought includes the instinct to know what is helpful and what is not.

Writing: RMC uses APA style for all courses. Our latest style guidelines are available on our website (rockymountaincollege.ca under “Resources” – “RMC Writing Support”)

### **2. QUIZZES**

Value: 40%

Students will write ten short quizzes throughout the course as a subject review. Quizzes cannot be rewritten or made up. Quizzes will generally be short, and act as an opportunity for students to determine whether they have understood the material.

## **F: COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Aristotle. Rhetoric. Dover, 2004. 978-0486437934

Alcorn, Randy. If God is Good. Random House, 2014. 978-1601425799

Aristotle. Metaphysics. Penguin Classics, 1999. 978-0140446197

Rudinow, Joel. Invitation to Critical Thinking. Nelson, 2006. 978-0176251475

Braaksma, Richard. Telling Truthiness. Chapter 8 Press. 2014.

Cathcart, Thomas. Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar. Penguin, 2008. 978-0143113874

Chamberlain, Paul. Can We Be Good Without God? Intervarsity, 1996. 978-0830816866

Comfort, Ray. How to Know God Exists. Bridge- Logos, 2008. 978-0882704326

Cooper, John. Plato's Five Dialogues. Hackett, 2002. 0872206335  
Dembski, William. Evidence for God. Baker, 2010. 978-0801072604  
Dembski, William. Intelligent Design. Intervarsity Press Academic, 2002. 978-0830823147  
Descartes, Rene. Meditations on First Philosophy. Hackett, 1993. 978-0872201927  
Geisler, Norman. If God, Why Evil? Bethany, 2011. 978-0764208126  
Geisler, Norman. Why I am a Christian. Baker, 2006. 978-0801067129  
Habermas, Jurgen. An Awareness of What is Missing. Polity, 2010. 978-0745647210  
Heidegger, Martin. Introduction to Metaphysics. Yale, 2014. 978-0300186123  
Kac, Mark. Mathematics and Logic. Dover, 1992. 978-0486670850  
Mackie, JL. Problems from Locke. Oxford, 1976.  
McCarty, Marietta. How Philosophy can Save Your Life. TarcherPerigee, 2009. 978-1585427468  
Morris, Thomas. God and the Philosophers. Oxford, 1994. 0195088220  
Plato. The Republic. Dover, 2000. 978-0486411217  
Rogers, Jack. Introduction to Philosophy. Wipf & Stock, 1998. 978-1579101398  
Russell, Bertrand. The Problems of Philosophy. Createspace Independent, 2013. 978-1482506600  
Schaeffer, Francis. The God Who is There. Intervarsity, 1998. 978-0830819478  
Stokes, Philip. Philosophy: 100 Essential Thinkers. Capella, 2004. 978-1841931395  
Taylor, Richard. Metaphysics. Pearson, 1991. 978-0135678190  
White, James. Introduction to Philosophy. Wadsworth, 2005.  
Wright, N.T. Evil and the Justice of God. Intervarsity, 2013. 978-0830834150  
Zacharias, Ravi. Beyond Opinion. Thomas Nelson, 2010. 978-0849919688