

TRINE

UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Philosophy

TERM & YEAR:

COURSE & SECTION NUMBER: PHL 203

TIME & PLACE: Asynchronous, Online

NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: TBD

OFFICE LOCATION/HOURS: TBD

OFFICE PHONE: TBD

EMAIL: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the perennial problems of philosophy, such as the nature of knowledge, the role of the self, the existence of God, and the function of science. The contributions of the great thinkers and of history to these problems are presented so that the student may find aid in forming his or her own philosophy.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT: Manuel Velasquez, Philosophy: A Text with Readings (13th edition, 2016)
ISBN-13: 9781305410473 | ISBN-10: 1305410475 Other readings will be posted in Moodle.

REFERENCES:

OTHER MATERIALS:

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to appreciate the philosophical enterprise and understand its classical divisions; specifically, the student should be able to:

- A. Judge the great philosophical questions.
- B. Identify the sources of human knowledge and epistemological questions.
- C. Examine the question of truth and goodness.
- D. Formulate their own philosophy of life.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: You are required to log into the course several times per week, complete text and other required readings early in the week, access required materials, participate in weekly discussion boards and complete weekly activities and assignments.

DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION: you must post a response to the discussion topic by midnight on Wednesday of 175 words or more and respond in a professional, relevant and substantive (100+ words) to at least two other classmates by Friday at midnight.

Students who do not participate in discussion boards and/or activities assignments will be counted absent for the week. If a student is counted absent for three times during the course session, s/he will be administratively dropped from the course.

You are welcome to work in advance of the Course Schedule; however, late assignments will not be accepted. All Assignments are due by midnight ON THE DUE DATE. Late assignments are severely docked. Please plan ahead if you cannot attend to class work. If a documentable emergency arises, please contact the instructor IMMEDIATELY via email to make alternative submission arrangements.

COURSEWORK AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- Submit all assignments using Microsoft Word (.doc or .rft) Use 1" margins and 12 point font and follow MLA layout and citation style for all narrative assignments.
- You may use a bulleted or numbered format when responding to questions- any style is accepted. If outside material (Textbook, articles or online sources) it MUST be cited in text and a reference list provided at end of assignment in MLA format.

FOUR TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE COURSE:

- 1) Discussion Forum (7). Most weeks a discussion question will be asked. Each discussion question will require your substantive personal response (at least 175 words). Your initial post should be by Wednesday at midnight to allow other students to respond to your input. You should also go back to the forum and respond to at least two other students' postings by Friday at midnight.
- 2) Quizzes (7). There will be six quizzes over the assigned readings. The questions are randomly selected from the text question bank.
- 3) Essays (9). You will be required to write short essays over assigned topics. These are usually 2 or 3 paragraphs long. If you use anyone else's words or thoughts, you must cite your source. All references must be cited in MLA format.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

Discussion Forums	1 @ 20, 7 @ 30	230 points
Quizzes	7 @ 30	210 points
Essays	9 @ 40	360 points
TOTAL		800 points

GRADING

Final grades are based on the following percentages and point scales:

90-100%	900-1000	= A	
85-90%	850-900	= B+	
80-85%	800-850	= B	
75-80%	750-800	= C+	
70-75%	700-750	= C	
65-70%	650-700	= D+	
60-65%	600-650	= D	
< 60%	<600	= F	

STATEMENT OF LEARNING: Learning is shared responsibility. As an instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain positive learning environment for everyone. The instructor takes responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task.

Students are asked to respect the learning needs of their classmates and assist the instructor in achieving this critical goal. It is the instructor's responsibility to present learning opportunities through the course syllabus, lectures, discussions, activities and assignments. It is the student's responsibility to do the learning by completing the readings, by attending, and by participating in class discussion and assignment. A variety of assignments will be used to determine how successful student is at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If a student experiences difficulty mastering the material and skills, he/she is encouraged to reflect on strategies being used to study and prepare for each class. The instructor welcomes a dialogue on learning strategies and may be able to assist in finding resources on campus that will help improve student performance.

OTHER POLICIES:

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to dishonesty in examinations (cheating), presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as one's own (plagiarism) or knowingly furnishing false information to the University by forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records, or identification. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work, submitting an academic exercise (written work, printing, design, computer program) that has been prepared totally or in part by another, acquiring improper knowledge of the contents of an exam, using unauthorized material during an exam, submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of professors, or submitting a forged grade change slip or computer tampering. The faculty member has the authority to grant a failing grade in cases of academic misconduct as well as referring the case to Student Life.

PLAGIARISM

You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ONLINE COURSES:

A. Technology Tools:

- 1- Web Access: this course is taught in asynchronous mode using Moodle. Students will need daily access to the web-accessible computer with a minimum of 56.6K MODEM SPEED. Weekly participation, via Discussion Board is required.
- 2- Software: Microsoft word PowerPoint and Adobe Reader

B. Instructor Expectations:

- 1- The instructor reserves the right to require proctoring or validation of student's academic work at instructor's discretion.
- 2- The instructor reserves the right to change or modify course material or deadline in response to student feedback or unforeseen circumstances.
- 3- The instructor request that students allow 48 hours to respond to students emails or other forms of contact.
- 4- The instructor will attempt to be available during the weekdays however as balance between family and work is important in everyone's lives, the instructor reserves the right to be unavailable on weekends.
- 5- The instructor request that the student allow instructor one week from the date of submission to post a grade or provide feedback, on any assignment. (Note: the instructor will make

- every effort to provide faster turn-around time, however sometimes faster turn-around time is not possible)
- 6- The instructor may sometimes be unavailable. The instructor will always attempt to email and/ or post an announcement to the class about any such inconveniences

C. Student Guidelines (Expectations):

- 1- Refer to Moodle for all due dates.
- 2- Late assignments will NOT be accepted for any reason.
- 3- Moodle should be utilized for all communication between instructor and students
- 4- Keep a copy of all assignments until the end of the course. Check your gradebook regularly for grades on assignments
- 5- Review and refer to the syllabus, assignment schedules and course announcements for all pertinent information.
- 6- Participate on a weekly basis in this course via Discussion Board (threaded discussion area) postings
- 7- Log in on regular access via internet accessible capabilities for this course.
- 8- Assume more responsibility (than in a regular face to face course) for your learning.
- 9- Understand that there are not any “lectures” in this course and student are responsible to read ALL course materials including emails and announcements from instructor.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Week 1 – Introduction: This is the introduction and orientation module. This module will introduce you to the course and to the purpose of philosophy.

Week 2 – The Nature of Philosophy: We will do an exploration of the basics of philosophy.

Week 3 – Human Nature: We will examine human nature. By the end of this week, you will be able to explain some different philosophical perspectives of human nature. Why does your view of human nature matter?

Week 4 – Reality and Being: What is real? Do we make our own choices? By the end of this week, you will be able to explain some different philosophical perspectives of reality and being. Do people have freedom to make choices themselves?

Week 5 – The Sources of Knowledge: Where do we get knowledge? By the end of this module, you will be able to explain where we get knowledge from. Does science give us knowledge?

Week 6 – Truth: What is truth? How do we know it? Who determines truth? By the end of this module, you will be able to explain some different philosophical perspectives of truth.

Week 7 – Ethics: How do we know right and wrong? Why do we believe things are ethical or unethical? By the end of this week, you will be able to explain some different philosophical perspectives of ethics and be able to explain your perspective of right and wrong.

Week 8 – Religion and Philosophy: This week we will consider the aspects of philosophy in the scope of religion. By the end of this module, you will examine philosophy for yourself and develop your own outlook.