



## **SYLLABUS FOR PHIL 1301 SESSION 41011 'INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY'**

### **CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines fundamental philosophical topics such as: knowledge, morality, the existence of God, reality and free will. Each theory, presented through the study of selected major philosophers and representative works, is critically analyzed.

**CREDIT:** 3 Hours

**PREREQUISITES:** ENGL 0305 and 0307, or 0316 and 0326



### **ADA STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office at 936-273-7239; located in Building E, Office 101D as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

### **PURPOSE**

This course will introduce students to the most significant philosophers and their ideas. Students will explore the basic schools of philosophical thought and be challenged to identify the philosophies they appropriate. This identification will allow students to develop a deeper appreciation for ideology and apply critical reasoning skills to questions they confront and the issues they face on a daily basis.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- o Demonstrate an understanding of the ideas of historically significant Western Philosophers.
- o Demonstrate an understanding of the major branches of philosophical concern.
- o Demonstrate the ability to think critically by questioning assumptions and using evidence to support claims.
- o Demonstrate an understanding of and rationale for one's developing personal philosophy.
- o Demonstrate a developing understanding of intellectual autonomy and responsibility in belief assessment.

## INTRODUCTION

This Session of PHIL1301, Introduction to Philosophy, is partially on ECollege. The Lesson Outlines, and Written Questions are all online through **ECollege** accessed using the Lone Star College or Lone Star College – Montgomery websites. It is each student's responsibility to learn how to access and utilize the online portion of this course. Computer Tutors in the Extended Learning Center (ELC) in building C can assist students in accessing ECollege and the online portion of this course.

The Written Questions are open for answering online in ECollege only for the dates listed in the Course Calendar shown below. If a student fails to complete a quiz or written question during the time allotted, they must request that I reopen by either ECollege email or my LSC Email. I will reopen quizzes or written questions for reasonable circumstances, at my option. Failure to complete a written question will result in a grade of zero for that written question.

For each Chapter, an outline is provided. These outlines are in the online modules and may be printed. If there is ever a conflict between the course book and the outline, the course book is correct.

The online sections for this course are divided into the eight (8) chapter of the book. It is each student's responsibility to have the textbook, bring it to class, and read each chapter prior to class discussions.

The Lectures and Class Discussions are held in assigned room for each class at the times listed in the Class Schedule shown below. Attendance at the sessions is essential and attendance is taken and used as part of the course grade. With written notification, e.g. email, exception can be granted at my sole discretion.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Spring Semester 2009

MWF      2:00-3:15 pm      Room A110      Session 41011

## INSTRUCTOR

William Robert (Bob) Brown, MBA      Office location: Building A, 200A

Email address: [william.r.brown2@lonestar.edu](mailto:william.r.brown2@lonestar.edu)

Lone Star Website: <http://faculty.lonestar.edu/wilbrown1>

Office hours: Upon request. I am usually available before and after class. If this is not convenient, I would be happy to schedule an appointment with you.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

*Ultimate Questions, thinking about Philosophy.* 2nd ed. 2007. Rauhut. Pearson Longman publishing.

## COURSE CALENDAR

<b>SPRING SEMESTER 2008 (MWF Late Start)</b>				
<b>PHILOSOPHY 1301 Session 41011</b>				
<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>Online Essay Question</b>	<b>QUIZ</b>
1	Feb 9, 11, & 13	1/2	Introduction Feb 2 - 7	Feb 11
2	Feb 16, 18, & 20	2		Feb 20
3	Feb 23, 25, & 27	3	Chapter 3 Feb 25 - 28	
4	Mar 2, 4, & 6	3/4		Mar 2
5	Mar 9, 11, & 13			Spring Break
6	Mar 16, 18, & 20	4/5	Chapter 4 Mar 18 - 21	Mar 18
7	Mar 23, 25, & 27	5		Mar 27
8	Mar 30, Apr 1, & 3	6		
9	Apr 6, 8, & 10	6/7		Apr 6
10	Apr 13, 15, & 17	7	Chapter 7 Apr 15 - 18	Apr 17
11	Apr 20, 22, & 24	8		
12	Apr 27, 29, & May 1	8/Review		Apr 29
	May 4	Final		2-3:50PM

## EVALUATION

The final grade for this course will be composed of four elements:

Written Questions (4)	20%
Chapter Quizzes (8)	40%
Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

**Quizzes.** These quizzes are based on the reading assignment from our textbook (by chapter) and are normally given on the dates as listed in the above Course Calendar. They will generally consist of True/False, Matching, and Multiple Choice questions on the assigned chapters. It is important to be present for these quizzes which will normally be given in the last 15 minutes of class on the dates indicated. If approved by myself, each student may make-up one (1) quiz. Except in extreme circumstances approved by myself, more than one (1) missed Quiz cannot be made-up. These quizzes will be worth 40% of your course grade.

**Written Questions.** There are four (4) to be answered on the dates listed in the above Course Calendar. Essays will be evaluated on the basis of thoughtfulness and understanding, as evidenced by the essay. If a student fails to complete a written question during the time allotted, they must request that I reopen the question, by either ECollege email or my LSCS Email. I will reopen written questions for reasonable circumstances, at my option. Failure to complete a written question will result in a grade of zero for that question. These written questions will be worth 20% of your course grade.

**Class Participation.** Class participation is critical to understand the material presented in this course. It is only by repetitive communications from different perspectives that the concepts presented can be fully presented. All viewpoints and backgrounds are appreciated and can only be presented and shared through proper class participation. Your effective class participation, as evaluated solely by myself, will be worth 10% of your grade.

## **DETERMINATION OF COURSE GRADE**

Grades will be assigned on a scale of:

90 to 100	A
80 to 89	B
70 to 79	C
60 to 69	D
Below 60	F

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

According to the Lone Star catalog appropriate credit must be given to the work of others and “*no fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is permitted.* Consequences for doing so can include but are not limited to (1.) having additional class requirements imposed, (2.) receiving a grade of zero or “F” for an exam or assignment, (3.) receiving a grade of “F” for the course, (4.) being withdrawn from the course or program, (5.) being expelled from the college district.

Plagiarism (claiming the words and ideas of others as your own and/or not indicating the source of ideas) or cheating will be handled severely in accordance with Lone Star policy. Additionally, in the case of plagiarism and/or cheating the instructor reserves the right to give the student a zero for the assignment/quiz.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

According to the Lone Star College catalog, *students are expected to abide by the faculty member’s attendance policy as stated in the course syllabus. Prior to the withdrawal date, faculty members may initiate requests for withdrawal of students for circumstances that the faculty member believes are appropriate.* Attend class regularly. Excessive absences (more than classes) may result in withdrawal. Each class missed beyond this four class limit will result in five (5) points being deducted from your *final course average.* Exceptions may be made for excused absences. Notifying me is both critical and

strongly encouraged. Students should be aware, however, it is their responsibility to withdraw for the course before the last day to drop and not depend on the professor to do so. Once the "W" Day has passed, those not meeting the above requirements will lose credit for the course with an "F" for a grade. Also, keep track of your grades so that you may make an educated decision when the deadline for dropping approaches.

Unless there is an approved special need that the student communicates to myself in advance, all PC's, games, cell phones, pagers, etc. must be put away and unused during class.

Students "sleeping" (head down on desk, etc.), web-surfing, text-messaging, etc. during class *or using class time for any purpose other than philosophy education* will be counted absent.

Laptop computers may be used in class for note-taking purposes only with prior approval of the myself. These students must sit on the front two rows of the classroom.

Coming late to class is a disruption to your fellow students. The door will be shut at 5 minutes after class time and anyone coming late will only be allowed-in by my exception. Habitual tardiness is unacceptable.

If a need to be absent or late is know ahead of time, please inform me ahead of time. I will try to adjust for any valid extreme case.

## **ON DROPPING THE COURSE**

Students who consider dropping the course due to excessive absences or low grades should consult with the instructor first! Mitigating circumstances and potential problems **may** be considered if the student is having difficulty fulfilling attendance and the grade requirements of the course. **If the student does need to drop the course, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to do so officially.**

## **HONORS COURSE CREDIT**

Qualifying students may take this course for honors credit. If you are not already a member of the Montgomery College Honors Program, see Professor Kathleen Monahan, Building A, Suite 220 #E ([kmonahan@lonestar.edu](mailto:kmonahan@lonestar.edu)) for qualifications and requirements for the honors contract and credit. If you are already a member of the Honors Program, then set-up an appointment to discuss the requirements for honors credit for this course.

## **COUNSELING**

If you find yourself in any kind of academic or personal 'distress' during the semester, please see BELS Division counselors Monique Olivas (936-273-7459, Building E, Office 209D) or Kari Chaffee (936-271-6257, Building A, Office 220A). They offer personal, academic, and career counseling and can put you in touch with other helpful campus resources.