



PHIL 1301 – Introduction to Philosophy (F2F)

Course Syllabus: Fall 2023

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Matthew Lampert

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| Office | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Online |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Hours | 11:00 – 12:30 | 8:00 – 9:00 | 11:00 – 12:30 | 8:00 – 9:00 | by appointment | N/A |
| | 1:30– 2:00 | 11:00 – 12:30 | 1:30– 2:00 | 11:00 – 12:30 | | |
| | | 1:30– 2:00 | | 1:30– 2:00 | | |

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: (3 credits) 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.

Prerequisite(s): none

Student Learning Outcomes: 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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Online Course Journal. | 30% |
| 2. Quizzes and Tests. | 30% |
| 3. Three Essays . | 20% |
| 4. In-Class Participation. | 20% |

Numerical grading scale breakdown: At the end of this semester, I will assign you a letter grade based upon the percentage of the total points available for the semester that you have earned. My grading scale is as follows. A: 100%-90; B: 89.9-80; C: 79.9-70; D: 69.9-60; F: 59 or below.

Required Instructional Materials: All readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

Optional Instructional Materials: All recommended readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

- Julia Annas, “Virtue, in me and in my society”
- Peter Wagner, “Autonomy in History”

Minimum Technology Requirements: access to Blackboard, and ability to load/print .pdf files

Required Computer Literacy Skills: basic proficiency with Blackboard

Course Structure and Overview:

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|-----------|----|---|
| August | 29 | First Day of Class: Syllabus, Introductions, Etc. |
| | 31 | Lecture: What is philosophy? Laying the foundations... |
| September | 5 | Reading: Plato: <i>Meno</i> Quiz #1 |
| | 7 | <i>Meno</i> , continued Essay #1 Due |
| | 12 | <i>Meno</i> , continued |
| | 14 | Reading: Aristotle: <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> Quiz #2 |
| | 19 | <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> , continued |
| | 21 | <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> , continued |
| | 26 | <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> , continued |
| | 28 | Reading: Epictetus: <i>Enchiridion</i> Quiz #3 |
| October | 3 | <i>Enchiridion</i> , continued |
| | 5 | <i>Enchiridion</i> , continued |
| | 10 | Reading: Rene Descartes: <i>Discourse on Method</i> Quiz #4 |
| | 12 | <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts I and II, continued |
| | 17 | <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts II and III |
| | 19 | <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts III and IV |
| | 24 | Reading: Thomas Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> Quiz #5 |
| | 26 | <i>Leviathan</i> , continued Essay #2 Due |
| | 31 | <i>Leviathan</i> , continued |
| November | 2 | Readings: Immanuel Kant: “What Does it Mean to Orient Oneself in Thinking?” and “What is Enlightenment?” Quiz #6 |
| | 7 | Kant essays, continued |
| | 9 | Kant essays, continued |
| | 14 | Kant essays, continued |
| | 16 | Reading: Karl Marx: <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> Quiz #7 |
| | 21 | <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , continued |
| | 23 | No Class (Thanksgiving Break) |
| | 28 | <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , continued |
| | 30 | Reading: Jean-Paul Sartre: “Existentialism is a Humanism” Quiz #8 |
| December | 5 | “Existentialism is a Humanism,” continued |
| | 7 | “Existentialism is a Humanism,” continued Journals Due |
| | 12 | Final Exams Week: Final Essay Due |
| | 14 | |

Readings:

Each reading has an associated folder on the Blackboard home page for the course. Each folder contains a PDF version of the reading, and the reading quiz associated with that reading. (A copy of each reading can also be found in the “Course Readings” link on the course page.) You will need to read the reading in order to complete the quiz.

Quizzes:

After you have read the assigned reading, you will take a short reading quiz. Each reading quiz will be 5 questions, multiple choice; its purpose is simply to check that you’ve done the reading.

Quizzes are timed: you will have only ten minutes to complete the quiz, and you will only be allowed one attempt. **Quizzes must be completed in one sitting, and quizzes will not be restarted for any reason**—so be sure to have a stable internet connection when you begin the quiz. Because I know that problems can and do occur, **I will drop your lowest quiz score** at the end of the semester—so a bad grade on one quiz due to technical errors will not hurt your grade.

Quizzes are due before the start of class, and will close and lock when class begins.

Quizzes will be due before class time on the following days:

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Quiz 1 | September 5 |
| Quiz 2 | September 14 |
| Quiz 3 | September 28 |
| Quiz 4 | October 10 |
| Quiz 5 | October 24 |
| Quiz 6 | November 2 |
| Quiz 7 | November 16 |
| Quiz 8 | November 30 |

Each quiz will be worth 5 points; the lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

In-Class Discussions:

Class participation is very important. This includes not only attendance (see below), but also active involvement in class discussion. I expect that each student will come in with some thoughts to share on each topic of discussion.

Essay Assignments:

For a full description of the assignments, see the links on the course page. The essay assignments will be your opportunity to apply what you’ve learned and to critically engage with new readings. Your essay will be submitted through Blackboard and TurnItIn.

Three short essays will be due over the course of the semester, on the following dates:

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Essay 1 | September 7 |
| Essay 2 | October 26 |
| Essay 3 | December 12 |

Each essay will be turned in through Blackboard and TurnItIn. Each essay must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on these days, or it will be considered late.

No outside sources are allowed for the first essay! The essay packet, primary texts from the course, class notes, and your thoughts are the only allowable sources. Use of outside sources will result in a zero for the assignment.

Course Journal:

The course journal will be kept all semester long, due at the end of the semester. For each module, I will give you a few response question(s); a few paragraphs should be sufficient in each case, but journals will be graded on relevance, completeness, and use of course material (your journal responses should show that you have read, and are applying, the assigned reading). **You will keep your journal in Blackboard**, and you can find it by following the “Course Journal” link on the course page. Journals will be due at the end of the semester, and should be complete by the final day

of class. **Entries that are not posted by the due date will receive no credit.**

Communications: During the semester, I will check my NTCC email at least once per day; you should expect a response to any emails within 24 hours. NTCC email is the best way to get in touch with me; however, phone calls to my office will also be returned as soon as possible.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information. Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is strictly prohibited for all assignments in this course. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population's page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.