

California State University, Sacramento

2021 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: Dr. Margaret E. Stiffler

Office Hours: by appointment

Home Institution: North Carolina State University

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Credit: 3

Course Description: The term “philosophy” means “love of wisdom”. The study of philosophy allows the learner to delve into the knowledge of understanding. Philosophy helps us understand truths about ourselves, the world in which we live, and the relationships to the world and to other people. As an academic discipline, those who study philosophy are always asking questions about life. Philosophy is the systematic study of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and logic.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Read and interpret (with pedagogical help) some primary texts in the history of philosophy.

Summarize with clarity and evaluate with insight some of the arguments, problems, questions, or issues arguably central to philosophy.

Summarize with clarity and evaluate with insight some of the arguments, problems, questions, or issues arguably central to metaphysics.

Summarize with clarity and evaluate with insight some of the arguments, problems, questions, or issues arguably central to epistemology.

Summarize with clarity and evaluate with insight some of the arguments, problems, questions, or issues arguably central to ethics.

Summarize with clarity and evaluate with insight some of the arguments, problems, questions, or issues arguably central to logical thinking.

Course Materials: The text for this course will be *An Introduction to Philosophy*

W. Russ Payne

Use this URL to download a PDF of the book:

<https://commons.bellevuecollege.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/125/2019/01/An-Introduction-to-Philosophy.pdf>

Students are expected to bring a device (laptop, tablet or phone) to class so they can access a digital copy of the textbook.

Course Requirements and Grades: Final course grades are based on the following:

Attendance and Participation: Class attendance is required and roll will be taken every day. Regular participation is also required. This is worth 20% of your final grade.

Quizzes: There will be a weekly quiz based on readings. Quizzes will be administered at various times without necessarily being scheduled for a certain class meeting. Quizzes are worth 20% of the total grade.

Midterm: A short answer and/or multiple-choice examination will be given approximately half way through the course. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test. It is worth 20% of the total grade.

Reflection Paper: Students will be assigned a 2-page reflection paper based on the viewing of documentary that covers a philosophical topic. Reflection papers are due at the end of the 3rd week of the term. Students may present their papers for extra credit. Reflections Papers are worth 20%.

Final examination: The final examination may include short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test, that is, it is cumulative. Administered the last day of class, the final exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

Grade Grade Points

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3

D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Course Policies:

Attendance is required and will be monitored and roll will be taken daily.

Students are expected to bring a device to access a digital copy of the textbook to all class meetings. Students are required to participate in a consistent manner, being respectful of classmate's opinions and contributions.

Check email frequently; additional readings and perhaps announcements will be distributed through email.

Please use email to tell me of an illness or to set up a time to meet.

Course Schedule: Be prepared for changes in the schedule, depending on how we move through topics/chapters. Changes will be announced in class or, if necessary, by email.

Week 1: What is Philosophy, How to do Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, (Chapters 1-3), Quiz 1

Week 2: Rationalism, Empiricism, Philosophy of Science, (Chapters 4-6), Quiz 2

Mid-Term Exam

Week 3: Philosophy of Mind, Love and Happiness and Meta Ethics, (Chapters 7-9), Quiz 3 and Reflection Papers Due

Week 4: Right Action and Social Justice, (Chapters 10-11), Quiz 4

Review and Final Examination

University Academic Integrity Policy: The University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work. Within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of F for the entire course. When completing an assignment for this course, students are expected to do original work

for the assignment and to not reuse work they may have done in previous courses or other settings unless the instructor grants specific prior approval. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of aid (whether written, oral or otherwise) in order for a student to receive undeserved credit on class work, homework, tests or any other assignment that is his or her own responsibility. Plagiarism violates the central core of educational philosophy. It involves stealing another person's work and claiming it as one's own. It occurs whenever one directly copies another person's intellectual effort and integrates it into his/her class work without giving proper credit to the author. Paraphrasing is defined as "a restatement of a text or passage giving the meaning in another form" (Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1996). When one paraphrases but intentionally omits authorship of the work, this, too, is a serious violation of academic honesty. All students have an individual responsibility to understand what cheating, plagiarism, and paraphrasing are. The student must also be aware that the consequences for cheating and plagiarism or for paraphrasing without proper attribution are severe. Whenever you have doubt about what constitutes cheating plagiarism, contact your instructor.