Course Number: PHIL 1301

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor’s Information:
Instructor’s Name: Adam Miller
Office Number: C200a (CPC)
Office Hours: T 10-11:00am, Th 2-3pm
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Class Information:
Section Number: WC1
Meeting Location: Online

Minimum Technology Requirement:
Students enrolled in this class must have reliable computer and internet access. Recommended specifications for video-streaming are as follows: Recommended Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows 2000, or Windows Millennium Edition Pentium or AMD Athlon K6 266 MHz processor or faster 64 MB RAM 56-Kbps modem 24-bit true color video card.

Minimum Students Skills:
Students must be able to demonstrate a minimal technological proficiency to effectively navigate the challenges of working and collaborating on-line. This means that, minimally, students are expected to have easy access to a computer and printer, as well as a basic knowledge of the computer's operating system and software tools for word processing, e-mail, and internet browsing.

To be successful taking online courses, you should be able to answer “yes” to the following questions:

Can you create, save and find files on your computer?
Can you open, close and resize windows on your computer?
Can you click, double click and right click using a mouse?
Can you cut and paste using a mouse?
Do you know how to use spell check?
Do you know how to install software on your computer if you need to?
Do you know how to send and receive email attachments?
Can you save, delete, reply to and forward email?
Can you access email and the World Wide Web at least five times a week?
Do you know the difference between an email address and a website URL?
Do you know how to access the Internet and go to a website URL?
If you are not comfortable or competent with the required technology, you should withdraw from this course.

Netiquette Expectations:
(1) Standards of courtesy and respect must be maintained at all times in our online "classroom." Join in to the discussion, but remember that this is still a “classroom” setting and that respect and consideration are crucial for any intellectual discussion. (2) Discussion areas are the place for intelligent and respectful airing of ideas. Name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted. (3) Any violation of the standards of appropriate behavior online will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

Course Description:
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. Additionally, texts studied will be from ancient, medieval, and modern sources.

Course Credit Hours:
Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite:
Meet TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent.

Course Resources (Required Texts):

Supplies:
See “Minimum Technology Requirements” above.

State Mandated 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. (Critical Thinking; Communication Skills)
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. (Social Responsibility)

Additional Collin Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Recognize and understand principal issues and problems of philosophical significance in various historical philosophical works.
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and analytically about philosophical issues and problems as presented in various primary sources.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of philosophies from different cultures and perspectives by articulating the arguments and situating them within the appropriate cultural context.
4. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1301 and properly citing all sources. (Personal Responsibility)

**Method of Evaluation:**

**Course Requirements:**
Each student will be required to:
1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of major argument, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Articulate key conceptual distinctions in philosophy.
4. Present logically persuasive arguments in writing.
5. Demonstrate an ability to discuss and reflect upon the application of the course material to various aspects of life.
6. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.
7. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1301 and properly citing all sources.

In order to meet the course objectives outlined above, a number of elements will be required of each student. Many of these elements are required on a weekly basis, others are required only once. A brief description of each is listed below.

As with any college course, in-class or on-line, students should expect to do 7-8 hours of focused work per week.

**Weekly Assignments:**
The goal of each weekly assignment is to help students to identify and analyze the philosophical arguments presented in a given philosophical text. The challenge will be to move beyond an initial reading to a more careful and patient analysis of the text. To this end, on a weekly basis students will be required to:

1. Complete a reading assignment
2. Take a brief multiple-choice quiz covering a given reading assignment's relevant historical context as presented in the textbook
3. Analyze an argument found in the reading assignment
4. Compare an idea from contemporary culture (a scene from a movie or television show, a song, a commercial, etc.) that illustrates the logic of the identified argument
5. Find and provide the web addresses for two on-line, philosophical resources that contribute to an understanding of the reading assignment and evaluate their usefulness for other students
6. Define an assigned philosophical term (these assignments will be made in a weekly discussion post)

**Semester Assignments:**
In addition, several other assignments will help us to synthesize in more general terms the work done on a weekly basis. To this end, every student will be required to:

1. Prepare one annotated bibliography for a research paper
2. Write one 8-10 page research paper
3. Take one midterm exam
4. Take one final exam
Both the midterm and final exam will consist of (a) multiple choice questions based on historical background, general familiarity with reading assignments, and the definitions of key philosophical terms, and (b) the matching of unidentified texts with their authors.

Feedback for each assignment (including grades) will usually be made available to students within a week of the due date. Reading this feedback is important to improving your work.

**Grading:**
Each assignment for the semester, whether weekly or general, is worth a designated number of points. Each student's grade for the semester will be determined simply by calculating the percentage of possible points earned.

90-100% = A (excellent and exceptional work)
80-89% = B (clear and substantial work)
70-79% = C (competent and acceptable work)
60-69% = D (problematic and inadequate work)
0-59% = F (unacceptable work)

Each assignment is worth the following number of points.

**Weekly Assignments** (1400 total pts.)
1. Multiple Choice Quizzes (20 pts. each x 10 quizzes = 200 total points)
2. Weekly Writing Assignments (100 pts. each x 12 assignments = 1200 points)

**General Assignments** (1000 total pts):
1. Annotated Bibliography (150 pts.)
2. Research Paper (350 pts.)
3. Midterm Exam (200 pts.)
4. Final Exam (300 pts.)

Taken together, the weekly and general assignments total **2400 possible points** for the semester. No extra credit will be offered.

Grades will be posted in the grade-book and individual feedback will be given on the "Assignments" page.

Each weekly quiz, the midterm exam, and the final exam will be open book, but time-limited. Each student must complete each quiz and exam on their own.

All assignments - other than quizzes and exams - must be turned in via the Blackboard Assignments page.

All late work will be automatically reduced by 20% of the total possible points for that assignment and must be turned in before the week of the final exam. Work that is not turned in by this time will simply receive a zero.

**Attendance Policy:**
Weekly online participation is required.

**Withdrawal Policy:**
See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for the last day to withdraw.
Collin College Academic Policies:
See the current Collin Student Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
Collin 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 opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.

Collin College Academic Policies:

See the current Collin Student Handbook.

7.2.2 Scholastic Dishonesty
Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student’s own work. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts:

General Scholastic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, and/or the award of a degree; falsifying academic records; using annotated texts or teacher’s editions; using information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium; leaving a test site without authority; and/or failing to secure test materials. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results includes misrepresentation, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research.

Plagiarism is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation or patchwriting, even when a source is cited. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term “sources” includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.

Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were one’s own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment (in whole or in part) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from the professor(s); or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

Collusion is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a
paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

In cases where an incident report has been filed for an alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member is requested to delay posting a grade for the academic work in question until the case is final. Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses will receive an authorized disciplinary penalty or penalties from the Dean of Student Development Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The faculty member will determine the appropriate academic penalty.

Course Calendar:

Week 1, August 24: **Orientation**
Week 2, September 1: Plato's *Euthyphro & Apology*
- Who is Socrates? What is the nature of piety?
  - 5th Edition: pp. 3-37
  - 6th Edition: pp. 3-37
Week 3, September 8: Plato's *Crito & Phaedo*
- What is the nature of the soul? What is justice?
Week 4, September 15: Plotinus' *Enneads*
- What is the metaphysical character of beauty?
  - 5th Edition: pp. 250-258
  - 6th Edition: pp. 258-266
Week 5, September 22: Augustine's *Confessions* and *City of God*
- What does Jesus have to do with Plato?
  - 5th Edition: pp. 265-293
  - 6th Edition: pp. 272-299
Week 6, September 29: Descartes *Meditations*
- How to use “doubt” as a philosophical tool.
  - 5th Edition: pp. 373-392
  - 6th Edition: pp. 373-391
Week 7, October 6: Descartes *Meditations*
- “Proving” the existence of God.
Week 8, October 13: **Midterm Exam**
Week 9, October 20: Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*
- What is skeptical empiricism?
  - 5th Edition: pp. 685-723
Week 10, October 27: Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*
- Are miracles possible?
  - 6th Edition: pp. 720-761
Week 11, November 3: **Annotated Bibliography**
- preparation for the semester research paper
Week 12, November 10: Kierkegaard Selections
- Why is faith paradoxical? What is subjectivity?
Week 13, November 17: Research Paper
Week 14, November 24: Nietzsche Selections
- Why do our values need to be revalued?
  5th Edition: pp. 1011-1038
Week 15, December 1: Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations
- Why is the nature of language a central philosophical problem?
  5th Edition: pp. 1097-1100, 1109-1125
Week 16, December 8-11: Final Exam

Additional Instructor Policies:
- Grading: Additional clarification about any grade may be requested. However, grades will be reevaluated only within a week of when the assignment is returned and only with a written explanation of why, in the student’s view, the assignment received the grade in question and why that grade merits reevaluation.
- Course Drop Limit Provisions (Texas Education Code 51:907): Students who enroll as an entering freshman or a first-time college student in undergraduate courses at any Texas public community college, technical institute, health sciences institution, or any public university offering undergraduate courses must comply with the legislation of TEC51.907. TEC51.907 states that students who enroll for the first time during the fall 2007 semester, or any subsequent semester, are subject to the course drop limit of six course drops. This includes any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution. Collin College will not begin to count dropped course until the fall 2009 semester. For more information, please contact Academic Advising or the Admissions and Records Office on any campus.
- Privacy: Federal privacy laws (FERPA) exclude my discussing your participation in this course with anyone other than yourself (even a parent or guardian) without written permission. Information about grades cannot be given over the phone or by email (except through your official cougarmail account).
- Response Time: Excluding weekends, students can expect to typically receive replies to emails within 24-48 hours. If a reply has not been received within this time-frame, please resend the original message.
- Links to External Sites: This course includes distance learning components which may contain links to Web Sites operated and maintained by other public or private entities. While Collin College instructors provide link information to these sites, the College assumes no responsibility for the privacy practices or the content of such Web sites. It is recommended that users consider the individual privacy policy statements of each web site they visit.
- Copyright: Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection.
- Syllabus Changes: All elements of this course and syllabus are subject to change for the benefit of the students.
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