



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Introduction to Philosophy
Course Code	PHIL 1111
Semester	Summer 2026
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This course provides a systematic introduction to the primary questions of Western philosophy. By engaging with classic and contemporary texts, students will explore the nature of reality, the limits of human knowledge, the existence of God, the mind-body relationship, and the foundations of ethical reasoning. The course emphasizes the development of critical thinking, analytical writing, and the ability to evaluate complex arguments.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain core philosophical problems in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics;
- Analyze and evaluate the logical structure of philosophical arguments;

- Identify the contributions of key figures such as Plato, Descartes, Hume, and Kant;
- Demonstrate familiarity with key figures in the history of philosophy, from Socrates to modern thinkers;
- Articulate their own philosophical positions with clarity and rigor;
- Apply normative ethical theories to contemporary social and personal dilemmas.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:

The Norton Introduction to Philosophy (2nd Edition) by Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen, Elizabeth Harman, and Seana Shifman. W W Norton & Co Inc.

Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (5th Edition) by Michael Peterson, et al. Oxford University Press.

Course Requirements:

Participation & Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every session and contribute meaningfully to discussions. This grade reflects the student's engagement with the readings and their ability to dialogue respectfully with peers.

Short Argumentative Essay:

A 1000-word paper requiring students to reconstruct and critique a single argument from the first unit (e.g., Anselm's Ontological Argument or Plato's *Apology*).

Midterm Examination:

An in-class exam consisting of multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering the first half of the course (Socrates, Religion, and Epistemology).

Term Research Paper:

A 1800-word formal essay where students must compare two philosophical positions on a specific problem, such as the Mind-Body problem or the nature of Free Will.

Final Examination:

A comprehensive exam covering all course material, with a heavy emphasis on the Ethics and Personal Identity units discussed in the latter half of the term.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Participation & Attendance	10%
Short Argumentative Essay	15%
Midterm Examination	20%
Term Research Paper	25%
Final Examination	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100

A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

PHIL 1111 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Intro: The Nature of Philosophical Inquiry	<i>Norton</i> : "Why Philosophy? Five Views"
L2	Logic: Tools of the Trade: Argumentation	<i>Norton</i> : "A Brief Guide to Logic"
L3	Religion (Part 1):The Ontological Argument	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 1 (Anselm)
L4	Religion (Part 2)Cosmological & Design Arguments	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 1 (Aquinas/Paley)
L5	Religion (Part 3)The Problem of Evil & Theodicy	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 1 (Antony/Stump)
L6	Religion (Part 4)Faith, Reason, and the Wager	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 2 (Pascal/James)
L7	Epistemology (Part 1): The Definition of Knowledge	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 3 (Plato/Gettier)
L8	Epistemology (Part 2):Scepticism and the External World	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 6 (Descartes Med. I)
L9	Epistemology (Part 3):Empiricist Responses to Scepticism	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 6 (Hume/Moore)
L10	Epistemology (Part 4):The Problem of Induction	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 4 (Hume/Strawson)
L11	Mind (Part 1): Cartesian Dualism [Short Essay Due]	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 7 (Descartes Med. II)
L12	Mind (Part 2): Physicalism and Its Critics	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 7 (Smart/Ryle)
L13	Midterm Examination	Covers Lectures 1-12
L14	Mind (Part 3): Functionalism and AI (The Chinese Room)	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 7 (Searle)
L15	Mind (Part 4): The Problem of Consciousness	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 8 (Nagel/Jackson)
L16	Metaphysics (Part 1): Personal Identity: Memory & Soul	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 11 (Locke/Swinburne)
L17	Metaphysics (Part 2): Personal Identity: Modern Reductions	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 11 (Parfit/Williams)
L18	Metaphysics (Part 3): Freedom: Determinism and Fatalism	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 13 (Strawson/Chisholm)
L19	Metaphysics (Part 4): Freedom: Compatibilist Alternatives	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 13 (Ayer/Frankfurt)

L20	Ethics (Part 1): Utilitarian Frameworks	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 16 (Mill)
L21	Ethics (Part 2): Deontology: Duty and Intentions	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 15-16 (Kant)
L22	Ethics (Part 3): Virtue Ethics and Meta-ethics	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 16-17 (Aristotle)
L23	Political (Part 1): Justifying the State: Social Contract	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 20 (Hobbes/Rousseau)
L24	Political (Part 2): Liberty and Distributive Justice [Term Essay Due]	<i>Norton</i> Ch. 21 (Mill); <i>Norton</i> Ch. 22 (Rawls)
L25	Conclusion and Final Exam Preparation	Review
/	Final Examination	Covers All Lectures

Accommodation Statement:

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you

believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.