

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 1030**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Spring 2014

Catalog Course Description:

An investigation of the fundamental questions pertaining to reality, truth, freedom, the nature of humankind, the existence of God and social/political theory.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at a college level. Students must also be responsible enough to prepare for, attend, and participate in class regularly.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Individual instructors will choose one of the following three options

- Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*, Dover ISBN 0-486-27066-1
Cardwell *Western World*, Penguin ISBN 0536936285
- Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text with Readings*, 11th ed., Wadsworth ISBN 9780495810797
- Mitchell, *Roots of Wisdom*, 6th ed., Thomson Wadsworth ISBN 978-0-495-81012-4
- Wolf, *About Philosophy*, 11th ed., Cengage ISBN 978-0-205-194124

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	What is philosophy? / Critical thinking
2	Socrates
3	Plato
4	Reality
5	Reality
6	Knowledge
7	Knowledge
8	God
9	God

- 10 Nature of man
- 11 Nature of man
- 12 Freedom / Personal identity
- 13 Social / Political philosophy
- 14 Social / Political philosophy.
- 15 Final Exam Period

II. Course Goals*:

The course will

- A. Expand the student's awareness and basic understanding of philosophy and its various branches. II.4
- B. Expand the student's knowledge of the questions/problems that have occupied philosophers during the last twenty-five centuries.II.1, II.4, II.6
- C. Develop the student's ability to think critically about traditional philosophical questions/problems. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6
- D. Foster an enhanced ability to think critically about various other philosophical issues. I.2, I.7, II.6, III.2
- E. Build skills to articulate ideas about philosophical issues.I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, I.7, .II.1, II.6, III.2

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference the university parallel program General Education Goals

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will be able to:

- 1. Sketch the development of epistemology from Plato through Kant. A, B, E
- 2. Discuss the major challenges in relating experience and reality. B, E
- 3. Evaluate practical, metaphysical, and ontological arguments for and against existence of God. B, C, E
- 4. Evaluate perspectives on the nature of man and free will. B, C, E
- 5. Compare and contrast the foundations of government and justifications for political action as seen by the Greeks, Hobbes, Locke, and J. S. Mill. B, C, E
- 6. Write papers that apply critical thinking skills (logic) to contemporary philosophical problems not directly covered in the class. D, E

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 20 % of grade

Two comprehensive, short answer exams; one covering the first half of the course, the other covering the second half

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work: 50% of grade

Critical Essays; two at 25% each

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 30% of grade

Classroom Participation: Each day, students will execute a signed contract that quantifies their preparation and participation (arriving on time, staying for the entire class, studying the reading assignment, contributing to class discussion, etc.)

E. Grading Scale:

100-90 = A
89-85 = B+
84-80 = B
79-75 = C+
74-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-00 = F

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Mississippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by sending email to disabilityservices@pstcc.edu, or visiting Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.