

PHI100: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality, 3 credits
Class #PHI100 40Z1_46050; Hopkinsville Community College: Online
Fall Term 16 Weeks Aug 13 – Dec 9, 2018

This course meets the requirements for level AA ADA Compliant

Instructor: Kelly Perez

Email: kperez0012@kctcs.edu (checked daily)

Office Hours: unavailable; not local to Kentucky

Getting Started:

1. **(1) Welcome Module Quiz due on day one of class**
2. **(1) Discussion Board Introduction due on day one of class**
3. (11) Discussion Board posts due by Midnight CET on designed dates

1. General Overview of Course:

a) Course Overview:

A general introduction to Western Philosophy that will ask and attempt to answer questions such as: What is the Human Condition? Is the world we live in real? Can we prove God exists? How is our mind related to our body? What is ethically right? What are truth and justice? Do we have free will to do as we please? Are we in control of our lives? In attempts to answer these questions, students will explore works from, but not limited to, Socrates, Plato, Descartes, St. Augustine, Nietzsche, James, Aristotle, Schopenhauer, and Locke. Philosophy is not about arguments, debates, and the caricature of cranky professors – not by a long shot! Philosophy is the key to unlocking the shackles that smother your curiosity, your wonderment, and your sense of self. Philosophy is not just a subject you learn. Rather, it's a lifestyle of wonderful, insatiable curiosity that will, if you let it, alter your way of being in the world.

b) Course Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, the student can:

- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the key thinkers and differing theoretical constructs of the Western philosophical tradition.
- ❖ Evaluate and understand the varying forms of knowledge and different views of reality and meaning of Western philosophy.
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the basic areas of philosophy: metaphysics (materialism, idealism, dualism), epistemology (empiricism, rationalism), ethics (virtue, deontology, utilitarianism), logic, aesthetics, and the philosophy of religion (inclusive of theism and atheistic challenges).

c) Software Required for Class:

Students can download free software at [HCC Student Services](#); login using your student username and password.

- Microsoft Word: (or similar Word processing program such as [OpenOffice](#), available free of charge via link)
- PDF Viewer of any kind

d) Textbook: (mandatory)

A Little History of Philosophy

By Nigel Warburton

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; Reprint edition (October 30, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-0300187793

e) Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and distinguish key philosophical concepts in the main subfields of philosophy, including concepts such as free will, mind, knowledge, belief, reality, faith, reason, good, etc.
2. Read and comprehend philosophical texts, both classical and contemporary.
3. Discuss core philosophical problems, such as whether there is a god, what does it mean to be conscious, are we free to make choices, what is justice, etc.
4. Explain and defend a position on basic philosophical problems.
5. Write clear and concise explanations and arguments about basic philosophical problems.
6. Identify and distinguish the main historical traditions in western philosophy, from Pre-Socratics to the Enlightenment.
7. Identify and explain key philosophical concepts as they arise in the different historical periods, including knowledge, reality, reason, substance, identity, mind/soul, causation, experience, etc..
8. Read and comprehend key texts in the history of philosophy.
9. Write clearly and cogently on a variety of topics in the history of philosophy.
10. Apply basic philosophical concepts to discuss problems of historical significance, including the mind-body problem, the challenge of skepticism, the relation of sensation/experience to knowledge, the limitations of reason, the relation of reason to passions, the existence of god, the challenge of determinism, etc.

2. Graded Components:

Download the **Welcome Module** for detailed information on the following.

The following grading scheme reflects your final grade for the course. Full explanations are available on Blackboard.

Syllabus Quiz	P/F (no show assignment)
Discussion Board Introduction	P/F (no show assignment)
Discussion Boards	1100 pts

a) Reading and Participation Requirements: Students are expected to actively engage in the material, discussions, and forums on a bi-weekly basis. In addition to these online requirements, students will spend two to three hours a week reading the material and completing assignments. Students should use a library resource center to supplement their work and raise their standards to a university-level. Students who are unfamiliar with the college setting will require independent training to meet the needs of this course. It is expected that all students read the weekly announcements, applicable course documents, student training aids, and all discussion board messages. Students who fail to meet these standards will find it hard to maintain a passing grade in this course.

Primary Sources:

By the end of the term, students will have **read or discussed** *most* of the following. The list appears more daunting than it really is; in fact, students will find each resource quite rewarding and interesting. The lectures and handouts serve as a condensed summation of the primary sources mentioned below. It is in the student's best interest to read portions of the primary sources along with the lecture and handout.

Week 1-2: Western Philosophy Origins & Aristotle's Metaphysics and Syllogisms

Fragments of Thales, Heraclitus, Democritus, and Parmenides
Aristotle: Categories

Descartes: Meditations segments
Thomas Nagel: What is like to be a bat?
Plato: Phaedo
Bertrand Russell: Do We Survive Death?
George Berkeley: Does Matter Exist

WK 3-4: Plato's Theory of Forms & Dualism

Plato: Allegory of the Cave segments (*The Republic*)
Plato: Apology

WK 11-12: Rational Beliefs

George Hegel: Philosophy of Right segments
Arthur Schopenhauer: Philosophy of Will
David Hume: Enquiry II

John Locke: Essay on Human Understanding segments

WK 5-6: Aesthetics: Philosophy of Art

Plato: The Republic, Phaedrus (segments)
George Hegel: Lectures in Aesthetics

WK 7-8: Theism: Part I: What is God?

Saint Thomas Aquinas
Saint Augustine
William Paley
Pascal

WK 9-10: Theism: Part II: Theodicy, the Problem of Evil & Free Will

Sam Harris: Free Will

Frederich Nietzsche: Thus Spoke Zarathustra (segments)

Boethius: Consolation of Philosophy

WK 13-14: Ethics: Part I: Ethical Theory & Contemporary Moral Issues

John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism, On Liberty
Aristotle's: Virtue's

WK 15: Ethics: Part II: Ethical Theory & Contemporary Moral Issues

Immanuel Kant: Critique of Pure Reason
Independent research on Moral Issues

b) Discussion Boards

***If you have issues posting your response to the Discussion Board please contact the HCC Blackboard IT department for help. Send an email informing the instructor of the problem to avoid possible late deduction points. Discussion Boards will not be graded via email. ***

All Discussion Board questions are located on the Blackboard Student Portal. Please note that previous week's discussion boards rotate to the bottom of the forum. The current week's discussion board will always remain on the top of the list. If students are seeking a previous week's discussion board, they must scroll to the bottom of the forum.

Students are required to submit their initial posts by Sunday by Midnight CET for a Satisfactory grade. Students wishing to obtain a higher Exemplary grade but submit Discussion Boards by Thursday and have one exchange with the instructor. There is not a specific word count being the instructor is grading quality not quantity. (*That is a blessing and a curse*). Students are required to cite all sources using APA or MLA and all references must be from scholarly sources.

c) Welcome Module Quiz: Students must complete the quiz by midnight Day One of class. The quiz covers questions from the Welcome Module. Students must complete this quiz before any other work in the class will be graded. Additionally, this quiz acts as the No-Show assignment. All Instructors are required to report students as a no-show if they do not check into the class from day one. This is the only time 'attendance' is graded in our online class.

d) Late Grading Policy: For detailed information on all grading requirements, please click on *Grading Policy* in the left-hand sidebar menu.

2-7 days late: Minus 5% of the total earned score

8-14 days late: Minus 8% of the total earned score

15+ days late: Contact the instructor

3) General Class Information

a) Blackboard Login Help: For students who are not familiar with Blackboard, below you will find a link that will help get you started. Orientation: How to Login to a Distance Learning Course, or cut and paste the following url into your browser web address bar:

[http://www.kctcs.edu/en/Students/LearnByTerm/Orientation/How to Login to an Online Course.aspx](http://www.kctcs.edu/en/Students/LearnByTerm/Orientation/How%20to%20Login%20to%20an%20Online%20Course.aspx)

b) Student Emails: All correspondence between the student and the instructor will be through their official school email. All correspondences are kept confidential and only revealed to necessary parties. Click the link below for help setting up your email.

c) Ways to Communicate with your Instructor:

- Email: kperez0012@kctcs.edu

d) Basic Computer and Writing Skills Required: At a minimum, students should be proficient in the use of the Internet, web chatting, and email and have basic word processing skills in order to succeed in this course. You may also seek help at the HCC Writing Center. The Writing Center is a free service available to all HCC students. This is where they can receive assistance with all writing assignments. Both main campus and Fort Campbell centers operate on a walk-in basis; we do not make appointments. However, special arrangements may be able to be made for students whose schedules do not permit them to come during regular business hours.

Writing Center, HCC Main Campus, TC 201

Contact: Maria Russell, mrussell0102@kctcs.edu

Monday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m - 3:00 p.m.

Writing Center, Fort Campbell Education Building, Room 1204

Contact: Mindy Weiss, mweiss0006@kctcs.edu, Monday & Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

e) Minimum Technical Requirements: Although there are no absolute requirements, computers with faster Internet connections, faster processors, and more memory will get better results. Keep in mind that if you have difficulties connecting to the class or a slow connection, the problem could be occurring at many levels. For help, go to the Student Support area on the left sidebar of your Blackboard. Should you run into technical difficulties, you can contact the HCC IT department at 270-707-3770.

f) Student Code of Conduct:

All students must adhere to the KCTCS Student Code of Conduct. You can read the principles at the KCTCS website: [Code of Conduct](#), or cut and paste the following url into your browser web address bar: http://www.kctcs.edu/Students/Admissions/Academic_Policies/Code_of_Student_Conduct.aspx

g) Absences:

Attendance is important for learning and will be taken at each class meeting. It's the student's responsibility to make up any work they may have missed and seek this information on their own. Communication is key if exceptions are to be allowed.

h) Classroom Etiquette:

Philosophy will challenge core beliefs that usually lead to heated debates. The student is required to be respectful and tolerant of all beliefs. Disrespect and rudeness will be met with the student being asked to leave the class, and an absence will occur. This applies to all forums where the discussion begins, i.e. in class or online. **If you are in violation of this policy, you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.**

i) No-Show/Withdrawal Policy:

Please see the college calendar for the last dates to withdraw. It's the student's responsibility to handle all withdrawal issues. **If you have not reported to the online class AND submitted the Welcome Module Quiz by Day One of class, you are subject to No-show and your name turned over to the Financial Aid office.**

j) Plagiarism:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. All essays must be cited correctly in MLA or APA format to ensure proper credit to the original author is given; online discussion falls under the same restrictions. See school guidelines for further information.

l) Student Rights and Appropriate Conduct:

As a student, you are certain to procedural rights if you are accused of misconduct, for example, cheating or plagiarism. You may learn about these rights either by consulting the academic dean or by visiting our Website. The code of student conduct can be found at:
http://www.kctcs.edu/Students/Admissions/Academic_Policies/~media/System_Office/Academics/StudentCode2010.ashx

m) American with Disabilities Act:

Students, let me be perfectly clear, if you are suffering from any form of disability or ailment, I try very hard to accommodate your needs. If you have trouble using the computer for long periods of time, all the lectures are available in PDF format; easily printable for paper reading. Also, I accept handwritten assignments for those who do not like to type on the computer or who do not have access to computer programs. In the Grading Policy, you will find links to free programs that allow you to easily upload your hand-written work into a PDF file. Finally, if you still need further assistance, you can submit assignments via audio/video format. Just turn on your camera and orally give the assignment. I also have video conference capabilities that will allow us to speak face-to-face. Please reach out and let me know your needs.

One last item, if you suffer from any sort of visual impairment, you can download any of these free eReaders. <http://usabilitygeek.com/10-free-screen-reader-blind-visually-impaired-users/>

HCC Disability Services Syllabi Statement Content

Hopkinsville Community College would like to help students with disabilities achieve their highest potential in college. These services are available at all campus locations. In order to receive accommodations on assignments or examinations, students must self-identify, submit proper documentation, and schedule an appointment with the Office of Disability Services. The Director of Disability Services, Dr. Jason Warren, is located on the Hopkinsville campus on the second floor of the Administration Building, Room 211. Dr. Warren may be reached at (270) 707-3801 and via email at Jason.Warren@kctcs.edu.

You can read the current Disability Policies at this [link](#), or cut and paste the following into your web browser address bar: http://www.kctcs.edu/Students/Disability_Services.aspx

This course adheres to all the policies under the ADA policy, located [here](#).

n) Quality Enhancement Plan Initiative

Hopkinsville Community College is committed to enhancing student learning through improved reading comprehension; therefore, the emphasis of Hopkinsville Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan is reading comprehension. The college believes and research supports that reading is the foundation of all learning and leads to academic, professional and personal success.