

**Course Title: PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

**Term: Fall 2022**

**Instructor: TBA**

**Course Credit: 3**

**Mode of Instruction: Online**

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**Course Description:**

This course is a study of the basic problems and methods of philosophical concepts, concentrating on the works of some major thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant. Topics include arguments for and against the existence of God, the problem of evil, minds, brains and machines, personal identity, knowledge and reality, justice and equality, and what makes life worth living. By learning the course, students will cultivate techniques that will help them to become clearer about what matters to themselves most and develop skills that are essential in the pursuit of every discipline.

**Course Prerequisites:**

N/ A

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- A. Gain insights into the basic concepts and theories of philosophy;
- B. Identify primary issues, concerns, and debates within philosophy;
- C. Understand the major figures, ideas and works in the history of Western philosophy;
- D. Develop critical thinking ability and academic writing skill;
- E. Develop the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-makings;
- F. Understand and reflect upon the implications of philosophical positions in daily life.

**Course Material:**

*Introduction to Philosophy*, John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer, 8 th Ed. , Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Evaluation:**

- Essay [ 15%]
- Homework [15%]
- Mid-term Exam [30%]
- Final Exam [40%]

**Description of the Evaluation tasks:**

Assignment/ Essay/ ... : During the term, students will be required to finish several evaluation tasks within due date. All the tasks are linked with specific course topics/ outcomes and will adequately assess students' competence and learning outcomes. Students are encouraged to meet with instructor about these tasks at any point.

Mid- term/ Final Exams/ Quiz/ .. : There may be periodic quizzes given at the beginning of lecture sessions; the feedback from these quizzes will monitor the progress of the learners and help to set learning priorities. There will be mid- term exam/ final exam for the course. They are the basic criteria for the evaluation of students' learning outcomes and final grade.

**Grading Policy:**

Students are supposed to finish each online lecture. Prior to each class, students should finish the required readings. During the class time, students are encouraged to make use of all relevant online course resources and communicate with the instructor. Students' grades are accumulated based on the cumulative evaluations.

Students' letter grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 90- 100	A 85-89	A- 80-84
B+ 77-79	B 73-76	B- 70-72
C+ 67-69	C 63-66	C- 60-62
D+ 57-59	D 53-56	D- 50-52
F < 50		

**Academic Integrity:**

Students must strictly adhere to the university' s academic integrity rule; and all essays, exams and any other form of academic assignments must adhere to these rules. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or misappropriation of materials will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be punishable by the university.

**Withdrawal from the Course( s):**

Students will be able to apply for a transfer or withdrawal within 3 days of the starting date of the course. If a withdrawal is applied for within 3 working days, the tuition fee will be fully refunded. After 3 days, the tuition fee will not be refunded. If a withdrawal is applied for in the first two weeks, it will be recorded as W ( Withdraw) on the course transcript. After this initial two-week period, the class will be recorded as F (Fail).

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week 1**

1	Course Introduction: What is philosophy?
2	Why Believe?
3	The Problem of Evil
4	Knowledge and Reality
5	Descartes and the Problems of Skepticism

**Week 2**

6	Descartes and the Problems of Skepticism ( Cont. ) <b>Homework 1</b>
7	Hume' s Problems and Some Solutions
8	Hume' s Problems and Some Solutions ( Cont. )
9	The Traditional Problem of Mind and Body
10	Minds, Brains, and Machines

**Week 3**

11	<b>Midterm Test</b>
12	Personal Identity
13	Kantian and Aristotelian Ethics
14	Kantian and Aristotelian Ethics (Cont.)
15	Justice and Equality <b>Essay 1</b>

**Week 4**

16	Justice and Equality (Cont.)
17	Existential Issues
18	Puzzles of Ethics
19	Puzzles of Ethics ( Cont.)
20	Paradoxes of Logic and Set Theory

**Week 5**

21	Paradoxes of Logic and Set Theory (Cont.)
22	Contemporary Moral Problems

23	Contemporary Moral Problems (Cont.)
24	Final Exam Reviews
25	<b>Final Exam</b>