Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 1301 2A1

CREDIT
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Online
PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:
None
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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
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.
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.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Blake Mires
Email:	nbmires@lit.edu
Office Phone:	409-247-5080
Office Location:	Technology Center 223
Office Hours:	Monday 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Wednesday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. *An Introduction to Philosophy by Russ Payne*
   https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/an-introduction-to-philosophy

2. *Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics edited by George Matthews*
   https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/

3. *Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion edited by Beau Branson*
   https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/942

4. Use of the library, Internet, and current information sources such as newspapers, TV and journals.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be recorded and submitted to LIT. Face-to-face classes will have a sign-in sheet. You may be marked absent if you do not sign in before class begins. You are required to log on weekly to Blackboard and review the week's course material. Additionally, you are required to check your LIT emails weekly. Assignments are typically due each week. Face-to-face students may lose one point on their final grade for each absence over six. Arriving late or leaving early may result in you being marked absent.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Start DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
08/26/24	Course Introduction and Policies Discussion of Syllabus What is Philosophy	9/1/24, 11:59 PM	Syllabus Quiz Module 1 Discussion 9/1/24, 11:59 PM
09/03/24	How to do Philosophy Ancient Philosophy	9/8/24, 11:59 PM	Module 2 Journal 9/8/24, 11:59 PM
09/09/24	Plato's allegory of the cave Rationalism	9/15/24, 11:59 PM	Module 3 Discussion Board Quiz over "What is Philosophy." "How to do Philosophy" and "Ancient Philosophy"

			9/15/24, 11:59 PM
09/16/24	Empiricism Philosophy of Science	9/22/24, 11:59 PM	Quiz over Rationalism, Empiricism, and Philosophy of Science Date not set 9/22/24, 11:59 PM
09/23/24	Philosophy of Mind Love and Happiness	9/29/24, 11:59 PM	Logic Assignment 9/29/24, 11:59 PM
09/30/24	Meta Ethics Right Action	10/6/24, 11:59 PM	Module 6 Discussion Quiz over "Philosophy of Mind," " Love and Happiness," and "Meta Ethics" 10/6/24, 11:59 PM
10/07/24	Social Justice Aren't Right and Wrong Just Matters of Opinion?	10/13/24, 11:59 PM	Module 7 Journal 10/13/24, 11:59 PM
10/16/24	Can We Have Ethics without Religion? How Can I Be a Better Person?	10/20/24, 11:59 PM	Module 8 Discussion Quiz over the "Right Actions," "Social Justice", and "Aren't Right and Wrong Just Matters of Opinion?" 10/20/24, 11:59 PM Common Assignment submitted in Module 12 11/17/24, 11:59 PM
10/21/24	What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social Contract Theory Utilitarianism	10/27/24, 11:59 PM	Module 9 Discussion 10/27/24, 11:59 PM
10/28/24	Kantian Deontology Feminism and Feminist Ethics	11/3/24, 11:59 PM	Quiz over "Can We Have Ethics without Religion?", "How Can I Be a Better Person?"

			and "What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social Contract Theory" 11/3/24, 11:59 PM
11/04/24	Evolutionary Ethics Freedom of the Will	11/10/24, 11:59 PM	Module 11 Journal Quiz over "Utilitarianism," "Kantian Deontology," and "Feminist Ethics" 11/10/24, 11:59 PM
11/11/24	The Intertwining of Philosophy and Religion in the Western Tradition Reasons to Believe – Theoretical Arguments	11/17/24, 11:59 PM	Quiz over " Evolutionary Ethics," "Freedom of the Will," and " The Intertwining of Philosophy and Religion in the Western Tradition" 11/17/24, 11:59 PM
11/18/24	Non-Standard Arguments for God's Existence Reasons Not to Believe	11/24/24, 11:59 PM	Module 13 Journal Quiz over "Reasons to Believe," "Non-Standard Arguments for God's Existence," and "Reasons Not to Believe" 11/24/24, 11:59 PM
11/18/24 No Class	Debunking Arguments against Theistic Belief From Philosophy of (Mono)theism to Philosophy of Religions	12/1/24, 11:59 PM	Module 14 Journal 12/1/24, 11:59 PM
12/02/24	Review Final Exam	12/6/24, 11:59 PM	Final Exam Extra credit quiz over "Debunking Arguments Against Theistic Belief" 12/6/24, 11:59 PM

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:
1.   Chapter Quizzes   20%
2.   Logic Assignment   5 %
3.   Assignments   40%
4.   Common Assignment   20%
5.   Final Exam   15 %

GRADE SCALE
- 90-100   A
- 80-89   B
- 70-79   C
- 60-69   D
- 0-59   F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT
It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

1. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard.

2. Type Discussion and Journal answers directly into Blackboard. Do not attach a file for your answer. If, for some reason, you do need to submit a text file, you must use Microsoft Word.

3. All homework must be typed and use MLA format for citations: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html
   Use MLA formatting for the Common Assignment

4. All homework, papers, and tests must be the work of the student only. The first offense of plagiarism will result minimally in a zero on the assignment. A second offense will result in dismissal from the course. (Student not dropped from the course.)

5. Pen/pencil and paper are required for face-to-face classes

6. Mature behavior is expected at all times.

7. Access to Blackboard and your LIT email is required. **Frequently check for any new announcements.**

8. Late work will not be accepted except in the case of a **documentable emergency** beyond the student's control. Complete assignments and submit them by the due date. You may turn them in early but not after the

due date. Technical difficulties and any other issues must be resolved before the due date, and they will not result in a time extension. If you have issues with Blackboard, use the Technical Support link. **Any emails requesting assistance with an assignment must be sent to me on a weekday 48 hours before the assignment is due. Your email must include your name, course, and class section. Example of course and section: PHIL 1301 3A1**

9. I drop the lowest **discussion grade, journal grade,** and **quiz grade**. You may turn assignments in early, but not after the due date.

10. Due dates may need to be altered. I will update the Blackboard calendar if a due date is changed.