

## **Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1301)**



**Credit:** 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

**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.

### **Required Textbooks 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.

### **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.

### **Core Objectives**

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Personal Responsibility:** To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## **PHIL 1301**

### Course Syllabus

4. **Social Responsibility:** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### **Course Outline**

Course Introduction and policies

Discussion of Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy

How to do Philosophy

Ancient Philosophy

Plato's allegory of the cave

Rationalism and Empiricism

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Mind

Love and Happiness

Meta Ethics

Right Action and Social Justice

Aren't Right and Wrong Just Matters of Opinion?

Can We Have Ethics without Religion?

How Can I Be a Better Person?

What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social Contract Theory

Utilitarianism and Kantian Deontology

Feminism and Feminist Ethics

Evolutionary Ethics

The Intertwining of Philosophy and Religion in the Western Tradition

Reasons to Believe – Theoretical Arguments

Non-Standard Arguments for God's Existence

Reasons Not to Believe

Debunking Arguments against Theistic Belief

From Philosophy of (Mono)theism to Philosophy of Religions

### **Grade Scale**

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

### **Course Evaluation**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Tests, Quizzes, and Discussion Posts 55%
2. Assignments 30%
3. Common Assignment 15%

### **Course Policies**

**PHIL 1301**  
Course Syllabus

1. Late work will be considered only in the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student's control. Late/make-up work may be accepted solely at the instructor's discretion.
2. If you wish to drop a course, the student is 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.
3. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

**Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at: [https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1\\_2014\\_04/Student/015\\_Browser\\_Support/015\\_Browser\\_Support\\_Policy](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student/015_Browser_Support/015_Browser_Support_Policy) A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the 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)839-2018. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](http://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](http://www.lit.edu) or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.