

## Course Information

Course Number: PHIL 1301  
Course Name: Introduction to Philosophy  
Institution: TBD  
Section: TBD  
CRN: TBD  
Semester: TBD  
Time: Online Asynchronous  
Location: Online Asynchronous  
Credit Hours: 3

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Hill, M.A.  
Email: [Hill.Justin.Andrew@gmail.com](mailto:Hill.Justin.Andrew@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: F, TBD, via Zoom  
Website: [HillJ.net](http://HillJ.net)  
Annotations: [HillJ.net/annotations/](http://HillJ.net/annotations/)  
Lectures: [HillJ.net/teaching/phil-1301/](http://HillJ.net/teaching/phil-1301/)

## Communication Expectations

Email or LMS are preferred. LMS messages will send me extra notifications, so it may be faster. I will try to respond within 24 hours, but please allow up to 2 business days (48 hours, M-F) for a response. Please plan ahead and communicate early

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## Course Description

This course surveys writings across the historical traditions of Ancient philosophy, Modern philosophy, American pragmatism, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Continental philosophy. Philosophers include Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, Mill, Bergson, James, Dewey, Sartre, Deleuze, Nancy, and Massumi. Themes include eidetic intuition, metaphysics, normative meta-ethics, virtue, deontology, utilitarianism, the good life, rationalism, empiricism, idealism, materialism, dualism, monism, pluralism, Enlightenment, skepticism, pragmatism, aesthetics, existentialism, phenomenology, transcendence, and immanence.

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## Student Resources and Basic Needs

Students are humans first. To learn effectively you must have basic security: a roof over your head, a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat, and other necessary external goods. If you or another student you know are having trouble with any of those things, please talk with me or use the campus resources available.

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## Course Requirements

- Week 1 Launch  
**10%; 100 points.**
  - 2.5%: Icebreakers [Week 1 Exit Ticket]
  - 7.5%: Unit 0: Syllabus Quiz
- Webcam-Recorded Timed Essay Exams  
**75%; 750 points [15% each].**
  - Unit 1: Intuitionism
  - Unit 2: Ancient Philosophy
  - Unit 3: Modern Philosophy
  - Unit 4: American Pragmatism
  - Unit 5: Continental Philosophy [Final]
- Daily Work  
**15%; 150 points.**
  - Exit Tickets (each week)  
[Short Responses to Guiding Questions]
    - 7.5%; 15 points per unit.
    - 2-5 sentences each week.
    - Two attempts, Pass/Fail [P/F].
  - Handwritten Annotations (per unit)  
[Print Assigned Readings, Annotate/Underline/Highlight, and Scan]
    - 7.5%; 15 points per unit.
    - 2/3 of unit annotated.
    - Study Teacher Exemplar Annotations [TEA] for further guidance.
- Extra Credit  
**+12.5%; 125 points extra.**
  - 2.5%: Respondus LockDown Practice Quiz [January 25; Unit 0]
  - 5%: Short Response to RPH with Prof. Casey [February 15; Unit 2]
  - 5%: Aesthetic Critique/Description [April 12; Unit 4]

Webcam-recorded timed essay exams (60 minutes, 900 words), with access to your physical annotations, open on Monday, 12:01am, the week they are assigned and will close End of Day Sunday, 11:59pm. Tech issues are expected to be tested and problem-solved beforehand, so plan ahead with notes and practices.

*In short, watch weekly lecture videos, study the assigned primary sources, and study for webcam essays.*

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## Reading List

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, excerpts from Books I, II, and VIII.  
Bergson, Henri. *Introduction to Metaphysics*.  
Deleuze, Gilles. "Immanence: A Life."  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Zones of Immanence."  
Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*, First, Second, and Third Meditations.  
Dewey, John. *Art as Experience*, Ch. 1-3.  
James, William. "What Pragmatism Means."  
Kant, Immanuel. "An Answer to the Question: *What is Enlightenment?*"  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface and First Section.  
Massumi, Brian. *Politics of Affect*, Preface and excerpt from Ch. 1.  
Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*, Ch. 1-2.  
Nancy, Jean-Luc. *Being Singular Plural*, excerpt.  
Plato. *Apology*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Republic*, excerpts from Books I, II, IV, VI, and VII.  
Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions*.  
Spinoza, Baruch. *Ethics*, excerpt from Part III.

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## Course Learning Outcomes

Students will be given the opportunity to:

- 1) (*Knowledge Outcomes*)
    - a) become familiar with fundamental philosophical concepts;
    - b) become familiar with major philosophical traditions;
    - c) develop the ability to critically interpret difficult philosophical texts;
  - 2) (*Skill Outcomes*)
    - a) develop the ability to reason and write critically about difficult philosophical texts and issues;
    - b) develop the ability to teach themselves from source texts without background knowledge;
  - 3) (*Value Outcomes*)
    - a) reflect critically about ethical, political, aesthetic, and metaphysical (meta-ethical) issues;
    - b) reflect critically about the value of knowledge and truth;
  - 4) (*Citizenship and Professionalism Outcomes*)
    - a) develop professionalism regarding punctuality, communication, and deliverables;
    - b) develop commonly agreed upon citizenship virtues and characteristics; and
    - c) develop the ability to understand contradictory perspectives and harmonize stakeholders.
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## Grading Policy

Please refer to the current University Catalog for additional information regarding grades and course withdrawal policies. For this course, (i) weekly exit ticket short responses to the main idea or a choice of

guiding questions, are graded on Pass/Fail [P/F] for accuracy, with two attempts; and (ii) webcam-recorded timed essay exams are graded according to the following scale (adapted from Dr. Robin James):

A (100)	Thorough and critical understanding of the issues – subtly summarizes the major issues while also offering insightful interpretation. Outstanding argumentation, organization, and writing (grammar, vocabulary, etc.). No misunderstandings. Clearly above and beyond expectations. <i>Excellent presentation of key ideas.</i>
B (85)	Above average understanding, not as creative or exegetical as an A level product, nor does it capture all the ‘complexities’ of the issues. A thorough recapitulation of the text and/or discussion. Adequate argumentation, organization, and writing, with few presentational complications. <i>No misunderstandings of key ideas.</i>
C (75)	Basic understanding, <i>marked by one or more significant errors or mis-readings.</i> Confused, disorganized writing that may address lots of information, but does not thematize or interpret it. Does not respond directly to all components of prompt.
D (65)	Very basic grasp of the material, presented in a highly confused manner.
F (50)	No comprehension of the material, and/or an utterly incomprehensible paper.
M/INC (0)	Missing/Incomplete/AI-Use. All <b>earnest efforts</b> receive a minimum grade of 50.

### **Grading Weight Distribution**

This class follows a 1000-point structure. However, note that there are 1125 total points available in the class, meaning there is an additional 12.5% worth of extra credit available in this course. Your grade will be categorized into buckets: A = 895+ points; B = 795-894.99 points; C = 695-794.99 points, etc.

The following point breakdown will be used to calculate your numerical grade:

{1125 points possible w/ extra credit}	1125 points / 1000 points
Webcam-Recorded Timed Essay Exams:	750 points / 1000 points
Unit 1: Intuitionism	150 points
Unit 2: Ancient Philosophy	150 points
Unit 3: Modern Philosophy	150 points
Unit 4: American Pragmatism	150 points
Unit 5: Continental Philosophy [Final]	150 points
Weekly Work:	150 points / 1000 points
Short Responses to Guiding Questions	75 points
Handwritten Annotations	75 points
Week 1 Launch	100 points / 1000 points
Icebreakers [Week 1 Exit Ticket]	25 points
Unit 0: Syllabus Quiz	75 points
Extra Credit:	125 points / 1000 points
Respondus LockDown Practice Quiz [Week 1]	25 points

Radical Philosophy Hour w/ Casey	50 points
Aesthetic Critique of Audience Impact	50 points

*I reserve the right to curve exams but am more likely to create an extra credit debrief targeting specifics.*

### ***Grading Feedback Expectations***

I will return grades via Canvas within three weeks after the exam date. For P/F Exit Ticket grading, I will try to grade your first attempt early so you can revise, so submit your first attempt early then let me know.

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### **Late Work and Make-Up Work Policy**

If something comes up that will interfere with your engaging class, **especially** for any of our four exam dates, please let me know sooner rather than later. However, if there is a present emergency, please deal with that first and contact me later — you need not, for example, email me from the emergency room.

Missing exams may be taken late, until the end of Week 14, but will be graded down by five letter grades (e.g., -50%). Missing exams taken late *until the end of Week 10* will be graded down by three letter grades (e.g., -30%), to encourage catching up early. Note the third exam can only be made-up at **-50%** and the final cannot be made-up. Exams missed for excused absences can of course be taken without deduction.

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### **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

AI use is not permitted in this course. AI use will result in an “M/INC” grade designation of 0 points, as this course is intended to teach you to think for yourself and to communicate your thinking without aid. Did you know AI causes (often rural) water depletion at its industrial data centers? Your brains can utilize 16 ounces of water (the amount consumed per query/prompt) better than the AI data centers can do so.

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### **Course Schedule**

Date	HTA Episode	Essential Readings	Assignments Due
<p>Unit 0: Introduction <i>0.5-1 weeks</i></p>			
W1 01.19-25	0.1 – 0.4	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19. No classes. Semester starts on January 20.  Meet Your Professor. Syllabus. Essay Exams. Exit Tickets. Respondus. Icebreakers.	

Date	HTA Episode	Essential Readings	Assignments Due
	<i>Unit 0 Exam</i>	<b>Unit 0 Exam, Syllabus Quiz.</b> Opens Tuesday; closes Sunday, EOD.	<b>Unit 0 Syllabus Quiz due End of Week 1.</b>

Unit 1:  
Intuitionism  
*2 weeks*

W2 01.26- 02.01	1.1 – 1.4	Bergson, “Introduction to Metaphysics,” in <i>The Creative Mind: An Introduction to Metaphysics</i> , pp. 187-237 [TEA: 133-69].  Ibid., cont.	
			<b>Guiding Questions due EOW, Weekly.</b>  <b>[Annotations due End of Each Unit.]</b>
W3 02.02-08	1.5 – 1.7	Ibid., cont.	
	<i>Unit 1 Exam</i>	<b>Unit 1 Exam, Intuitionism.</b> Opens Monday; closes Sunday, EOD.	<b>Unit 1 Essay Exam, 60min, due EOW3.</b>  <b>U1 Annotations.</b>

Unit 2:  
Ancient  
Philosophy  
*2 weeks*

W4 02.09-15	2.1 – 2.4	Plato, <i>Apology</i> .	
	3.1 – 3.5 <i>Extra Credit RPH: 5.1</i>	Ibid., <i>Republic</i> , Book I, 327a-327c [Context; Setting; Listening]; Book II, 357a-361e [Ring of Gyges]; and Book IV, 427a-445a [The Just City and the Tripartite Soul].	<b>Short Response to RPH Interview w/ Ed Casey [HTA 5.1], due EOW4.</b>
W5 02.16-22	4.1 – 4.2	Ibid., Book VI, 506d-511e [Analogies of the Sun and the Divided Line]; and Book VII, [Allegory of the Cave].	
	6.1 – 6.4 <i>Unit 2 Exam</i>	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I Ch. 6-8 [The Good and the Good Life]; Book II [Virtue Ethics]; and Book VIII, Ch. 3 [Three Types of Friendship].  <b>Unit 2 Exam, Ancient Philosophy.</b> Opens Monday; closes Sunday, EOD.	<b>Unit 2 Essay Exam, 60min, due EOW5.</b>  <b>U2 Annotations.</b>

Unit 3:  
Modern  
Philosophy  
*3 weeks*

W6 02.23- 03.01	7.1 – 7.2	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , First [Doubt] and Second [Cogito] Meditations.	
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Date	HTA Episode	Essential Readings	Assignments Due
	7.3 – 7.4	Ibid., Third Meditation [Clear and Distinct Perceptions; Cartesian Circle; Henosis, or Dialectical Truth as Participation in God's Being; Proofs for God's Existence].	
W7 03.02-08	8.1, 8.2, 8.5	Massumi, <i>Politics of Affect</i> , Preface, pp. vii-xii, Ch. 1 excerpt, pp. 1-12 [Spinozan Process Monism; Historical, Zonal Affect Theory].	
	9.1	Kant, "An Answer to the Question: <i>What is Enlightenment?</i> ," pp. 1-5.	
	10.1 – 10.3	Ibid., <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Preface, 1 <sup>st</sup> Section, pp. 1-17 [Deontology; Good Will; Misology; Duty; Respect; Law; Universalizability; Categorical Imperative].	
W8 03.09-15	11.1 – 11.5	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , in <i>The Classical Utilitarians: Bentham and Mill</i> , Ch. 1-2, pp. 95-115 [Consequentialism].	
	<i>Unit 3 Exam</i>	<b>Unit 3 Exam, Modern Philosophy.</b> Opens Monday; closes Sunday, EOD.	<b>Unit 3 Essay Exam, 60min, due EOW8.</b> <b>U3 Annotations.</b>

Spring Break  
1 week

W9 03.16-22		Spring Break, March 16-22. No classes.	
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Unit 4:  
American  
Pragmatism  
4 weeks

W10 03.23-29	12.1 – 12.3	James, "What Pragmatism Means."	
		Ibid., cont.	
W11 03.30- 04.05	13.1	Dewey, <i>Art as Experience</i> , "The Live Creature," pp. 1-19 [Pragmatist Aesthetics; Process Monism Complexified along Continuums].	
	13.2	Ibid., "The Live Creature and 'Ethereal Things,'" pp. 20-35.  Spring Holiday, April 3-5. No classes.	<b>All Missing Exams Due for -30% Off.</b>
W12 04.06-12	13.3	Ibid., cont.	
	13.4	Ibid., "Having an Experience," pp. 36-59.	<b>Aesthetic Critique, due EOW12.</b>
W13 04.13-19	<i>Re-Read/Study</i>	Ibid., cont.	
	<i>Unit 4 Exam</i>	<b>Unit 4 Exam, American Pragmatism.</b> Opens Monday; closes Sunday, EOD.	<b>Unit 4 Essay Exam, 60min, due EOW13.</b>

Date	HTA Episode	Essential Readings	Assignments Due
			<b>U4 Annotations.</b>

Unit 5/Final:  
Continental  
Philosophy  
*3 weeks*

W14 04.20-26	14.1 – 14.2	Sartre, <i>Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions</i> , “Introduction: Psychology, phenomenology and phenomenological psychology,” pp. 1-14.	
	14.3	Ibid., “I. The Classic Theories” and “II. The Psychoanalytic Theory,” pp. 15-33.	
W15 04.27- 05.03	14.4 – 14.5	Ibid., “III. Outline of a Phenomenological Theory” and “Conclusion,” pp. 34-64.	
	14.6	Ibid., cont.	<b>All Missing Exams Due for -50% Off.</b>
W16 05.04-10	TBD	Nancy, <i>Being Singular Plural</i> , Preface, “We Are Meaning,” “People Are Strange,” and “Gaining Access to the Origin,” pp. xv-21.	
	15.1	Deleuze, “Immanence: A Life,” in <i>Pure Immanence: Essays on a Life</i> , pp. 25-32.  Ibid., “Zones of Immanence,” in <i>Two Regimes of Madness</i> , pp. 266-69.	

Final Exams  
*0.5-1 weeks*

W17 05.11	<i>Reading Day</i>	No class due to Reading Day. Office Hours by appointment via Zoom ( <b>please utilize!</b> ).	
05.12-17	<i>Final Exam</i>	<b>Unit 5 Exam, Continental Philosophy (Final).</b> Opens Tuesday, 05.12, at 12:01am; closes Sunday, 05.17, EOD (11:59pm).	<b>Unit 5 Exam, 60min, due End of Term.</b>  <b>U5 Annotations.</b>

## Important Dates

- **Holidays and No-Class Days**
  - *March 16-22: Spring Break. No classes.*
  - *April 3-5: Spring Holiday. No classes.*
- **Grade-related Dates (Essay Exams)**
  - *January 20-25: Syllabus Quiz [Unit 0]*
  - *January 20-25: Practice Respondus! [Unit 0]*
  - *February 2-8: Intuitionism Essay Exam [Unit 1]*
  - *February 16-22: Ancient Philosophy Essay Exam [Unit 2]*

- *March 9-15: Modern Philosophy Essay Exam [Unit 3]*
  - *April 13-19: American Pragmatism Essay Exam [Unit 4]*
  - *May 12-17: Continental Philosophy Essay Exam [Unit 5; Final]*
  - **Grade-related Dates (Make-Ups)**
    - *April 5: All Missing Essay Exams Due for -30%*
    - *May 3: All Missing Essay Exams Due for -50%*
  - **Finals Week and Commencement**
    - *May 10: Last Day of Class*
    - *May 11: Reading Day*
    - *May 12-17: Final Exam*
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## Learning Resources

**My Office Hours** are listed above; you are always welcome to ask me questions; I encourage discourse. You are welcome to stop by to ask about assigned readings, continue class discussions, get feedback on essays and term papers in advance, get clarity with the assigned reading, or meet my German Shepherd.

[The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy \(SEP\)](#) is better than AI (*use Ctrl+F to find keywords instead of AI*). This is a great secondary source if you are struggling with the primary sources assigned in class. You can also use the SEP to help identify promising secondary sources, topics for term papers, and the broader discourse, context, and interpretation around assigned primary sources, both for reading and for writing.

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## Disclaimer

I reserve the right to alter this syllabus and modify the information given above at any time during the semester. All changes will be announced via the LMS, which should hopefully forward to your email.

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## Texas Apartment Association: Resources for Renters; Know Your Housing Rights

The website for the Texas Apartment Association at [TAA.org](#) offers lots of resources. Know your rights!

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