

PHL 101 SYLLABUS
KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE
Spring 2013

Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credits)

PHL 101 5003

Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:40pm, U305

Jan 14, 2013-May 17, 2013

Mike Sturm

Office: U216

Office hours: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm & by appointment¹

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to philosophy by means of consideration of familiar problems and questions which have been treated by philosophers. Students will read selections from original texts from several branches of philosophy, including ethics, philosophy of religion, aesthetics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Three hours lecture/discussion a week. **IAI: H4 900**

¹ Unfortunately, due to my living in Rockford, “appointments” may work differently than the norm. The appointment hours may be physically in the office, or via the chat interface on Blackboard.

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES

- To introduce you to the basic questions, key figures, and influential ideas of philosophy.
- To connect philosophical issues with questions in your own life and in society at large.
- To develop philosophical tools of analysis, criticism, and articulation for use in your studies, occupations and personal lives.
- To enable you to participate effectively in civil, open debate.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

- Soccio, D. J. (2010). *Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy* (7th ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth.
- Readings to be provided through Blackboard

REQUIRED STUDENT MATERIALS

Students are expected to have their textbook with them during every class period, unless otherwise instructed. Additional materials needed for taking notes (notebook, paper, laptop, etc.) are also encouraged.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT REFERENCES AND THEIR LOCATION (if applicable)

For example: Kishwaukee Library, NIU Library, Learning Skills Center, media services, Internet, computer labs (accounting software in B-108).

BREAKDOWN OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation.....	50pts
Quizzes (12).....	120pts.
Assignments.....	30pts.
Midterm Exam.....	100pts.
Term Paper.....	100pts.
<u>Total Possible.....</u>	<u>400pts.</u>

FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION

90% – 100% = A

80% – 89% = B

70% – 79% = C

60% – 69% = D

0 – 59% = F

Grade reports will not be mailed out. Please check KishSOS, My Student Info, under Academic Profile, Grades, for grade reports. I will also be posting weekly updates on Blackboard as assignments and quizzes are graded.

OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation

Philosophy thrives where debate occurs. We will be learning about theories that attempt to explain the whole of reality, and seeing as we all live in reality, I expect that everyone would have at least a few contributions to make to the debate. That being said, you will be expected to contribute during class, and part of your grade will depend on that participation. The more you contribute, the more things there will be for the class to discuss. So for your own benefit and the benefit of the class, be ready to participate.

Distractions

Cell phones and portable computers are allowed in class, but must be silent. Text messaging during class is strongly discouraged. If you are in class, you are obviously paying for the course, whether financially, with your time, or both. If you choose to pay for the course, but distract yourself by texting during class, you are wasting both your time *and* money.

Respect

In an effort to foster an environment of mutual respect and equality, I ask that we all refer to one another as either Mr. _____ or Ms. _____. This will ensure that we are all equally respectful of one another, and receptive to each other's ideas. Name tags will be distributed if necessary.

Make-up Policy

There will be no make-up quizzes, as quizzes will be used partially as an indicator of class attendance. Test dates are included in the syllabus; if a student will not be able to make it to class on one of those days, he or she must meet with me in advance to set up an alternative date to take the exam. Make-up tests for *unexpected* absences will only be given in the event of an emergency, and only after the student has discussed the issue with me individually.

LEARNING SKILLS CENTER (A-300)

Tutoring and testing is available to all Kishwaukee students free of charge. Students must present their Kishwaukee College student ID when using any Learning Skills Center services. No appointment is necessary for assistance in English. For more information on the Learning Skills Center go to www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/learning_skills_center

The Writing Center (A-306) answers your writing-related questions regardless of the class or assignment. No appointment is necessary, and students can get help individually or in small groups. Also available are workshop opportunities for any size group.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

A “W” will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the class according to procedures described in the college catalog. Any student that does not officially withdraw from the class will receive a letter grade. The last date for withdrawal for this course can be found at “MY CLASS SCHEDULE” on KishSOS.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Class cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on local radio stations or posted on the College Web site: www.kishwaukeecollege.edu. Students may also call the College at (815) 825-2086. Class cancellations due to instructor absence will be posted on the classroom door and posted at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/class_cancellations. Room changes will be announced in advance whenever possible and posted on the classroom door.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES/SAFETY

Yellow and red *Emergency Information Flip Charts* are located in each classroom. These are quick reference sheets with telephone numbers to reach emergency assistance and a brief description of the correct actions to take in the event of a tornado, fire or other emergency on campus.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER DEGREE STUDENTS

All students intending to graduate with an A.A., A.S., A.E.S., or A.F.A. are required to submit a Degree Portfolio. The Degree Portfolio is a way for the institution to measure its effectiveness in preparing students for successful completion of a degree at the transferring institution. Save your work throughout your career at the college in order to facilitate the portfolio compilation. Submit a completed application for graduation from the college the semester that you plan on graduating prior to submitting the Degree Portfolio. The specific requirements (along with the rubrics used for assessment) for the Degree Portfolio can be found at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/portfolio.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is essential in a college community. In order to evaluate student work, faculty must be able to trust that the work is original with a student and not the work of someone else. Plagiarism, cheating, or other dishonest actions will not be tolerated, and the penalties for such actions are at the discretion of the instructor. A complete explanation of the policy and procedures surrounding academic honesty are outlined in the Kishwaukee College Catalog.

COPYRIGHT

As a Kishwaukee College Student, you may have software made available to you by the college for course use. Please understand that copyright law may prohibit copying these materials. Violation of copyright laws can lead to prosecution for a criminal offense.

ASSISTIVE RESOURCES CENTER/DISABILITY SERVICES

Any student having a documented disability or special learning need and wanting to request accommodations, should contact the Coordinator in A 317 or at (815) 825-2086 Ext 3960, (815) 825-9106 (TTY), or send an email to awilson@kishwaukeecollege.edu. The student's disability must impact their ability to participate in the educational environment and be documented by an appropriate professional prior to accommodations being approved.

STUDENT E-MAIL

Your Kishwaukee College e-mail account will be the only way to receive official notices from the college. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that all communication from and within the college will use your Kishwaukee student e-mail. When communicating with instructors or employees of the college, you are required to use your Kishwaukee e-mail address.

BLACKBOARD COURSE WEBSITE

We will be using BlackBoard online software for this course. All course announcements and changes will be available there, as well as documents, notes, media, and other goodies. If you are enrolled in the course, you can log on to BlackBoard. The website is:

<https://online.kishwaukeecollege.edu/>

You will need your KishID and password to log in. If you do not know these, contact the Helpdesk:

helpdesk@kishwaukeecollege.edu

or

(815) 825-2086, extension 4357

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Lesson Plan</u>
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1/15.....	Introduction. Distribute syllabus. Overview of Philosophy. Argument clinic. (supplementary reading on Blackboard for reference).
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1/22.....	Chap 2; Outline of non-Western Philosophy; Quick coverage of Pre-Socratics
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1/29.....	Chapter 3; Protagoras and the pre-Socratics
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2/5.....	Chap 4; Socrates, the Gadfly of Athens
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2/12.....	Chap 5; Plato, the Forms, and Political Philosophy
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2/19.....	Chap 6; Aristotle and his influence.
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2/26.....	Chapter 8; Thomas Aquinas and the Scholastic tradition (Class Cancelled)
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3/5.....	Chap 9; Rationalism, Skepticism, and Epistemology. (Class Cancelled)
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3/12.....	<i>Spring Break, no class!</i>
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3/19 – class cancelled

3/26.....	Chap 8 & 9; Thomas Aquinas / Rationalism, Skepticism, and Epistemology
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4/2.....	MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Open Note: one sheet of 8.5” x 11” paper full of notes will be allowed)
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4/9.....	Chap 10; Empiricism vs. Rationalism; What Locke and Berkeley fought about; why Hume was the logical conclusion of the fight.
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4/16.....	Chap. 11; Kant's answer to the Realism/Idealism debate; Kant's moral innovation
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4/23.....	Chap. 12; Mill, the Utilitarians, and Moral Philosophy; Chap. 13; Marxism, and Marx’s influences.
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4/30.....	Chap. 14; Kierkegaard and Existentialism
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5/7.....	Final Paper Due in class. Chap. 16; Nietzsche and “philosophizing with a hammer”.
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5/14.....	Papers handed back. Exit survey (for extra credit)
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