

Kishwaukee College
PHL 101 - Introduction to Philosophy
(3 credit hours)
PHL 100 - 5003

Tuesdays 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Room U305
1/17/2012 – 5/15/2012
Instructor: Michael Sturm
Office: U216
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm & by appointment
Phone: (815) 408-0035
E-mail: michael.sturm@kishwaukeecollege.edu

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**

Course Objectives:

- 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 Texts

- 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.

Breakdown of Course Requirements

Participation.....50pts
Quizzes (12).....120pts.

Assignments.....30pts.
Midterm Exam.....100pts.
Term Paper.....100pts.
Total Possible.....400pts.

Final Grade Determination

405 – 450 = A
360 – 404 = B
315 – 359 = C
270 – 314 = D
0 – 269 = F

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-330)

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 and/or posted on the College website: 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 references 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

As part of the assessment program, students intending to graduate with an A.A., A.E.S., A.F.A., or A.S. are required to submit a Degree Portfolio. Information on 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 the original work of 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 396 (v), (815) 825-9106 (TTY), or send an e-mail 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

You are to have read the material listed under "lesson plan" by the date listed next to it, so we can cover it in discussion/lecture format.

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Lesson Plan</u>
1/17	Introduction. Distribute syllabus. The tools of Philosophy. Argumentation.
1/24	Chap 2; Outline of non-Western Philosophy; Quick coverage of Pre-Socratics
1/31	Chapter 3; Protagoras and the pre-Socratics
2/7	Chap 4; Socrates, the Gadfly of Athens
2/14	Chap 5; Plato, the Forms, and Political Philosophy
2/21	Chap 6; Aristotle and his influence.
2/28	Chap 9; Rationalism, Skepticism, and Epistemology.
3/6	Mid-Term Exam
3/13	<i>Spring Break, no class!</i>
3/20	Chap 10; Empiricism vs. Rationalism; What Locke and Berkeley fought about; why Hume was the logical conclusion of the fight.
3/27	Chap. 11; Kant's answer to the Realism/Idealism debate; Kant's moral innovation
4/3	Chap. 12; Mill, the Utilitarians, and Moral Philosophy.
4/10	Chap. 13; Marxism, and Marx's influences.
4/17	Chap. 14; Kierkegaard and Existentialism
4/24	Chap. 16; Nietzsche and the critique of Modernity and morality.
5/1	TBA (most likely will be moved due to spillover from other chapters)
5/8	Final Paper Due in class. Wrap-up/Class discussion of themes and theories
5/15	Final meeting; Distribute papers; TBA.