

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHIL 201

PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY IDEAS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the major positions and figures in philosophy and the cultural worldviews and practical applications that derive from them, focusing specifically on theism, naturalism and humanism in contemporary thought.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course extends beyond degree completion to the spiritual edification of the Liberty University student both as a disciple of Christ and an ambassador of the Christian faith. It equips the student to defend his or her faith against the intellectual attacks of nonbelievers by exposing the issues and problems of philosophy.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the characteristics of philosophy.
- B. Explain why the development of the philosophical mindset is important in general and for Christians in particular.
- C. Demonstrate deductive and inductive reasoning through identification of valid and invalid argument forms.
- D. Analyze major philosophical issues within the different divisions of philosophy.
- E. Explain major terms and concepts in philosophy.

- F. Describe a Christian philosophical viewpoint on major philosophical issues in his or her own words.
- G. Assess different movements and thinkers within each division of philosophy from a Christian worldview.
- H. Evaluate major philosophical problems and questions within each division of philosophy from a Christian worldview.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Group Discussion Board Forums (2)

For this collaborative discussion board, groups will be assigned alphabetically by last name. There will be 2 Group Discussion Board Forums. The purpose of the Group Discussion Board Forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. For each forum, the student will create a thread of at least 350 words. In addition to the thread, the student will also write a reply of at least 200 words to the thread of at least 1 classmate.

- D. Essay

The student will complete 3 short readings from Plato, Descartes, and *The Matrix*. The student will then write an essay of at least 600 words addressing the questions provided. Research and use of outside sources is encouraged, but not required.

- E. Response Paper

The student will write a critical response to the article by H. J. McCloskey titled "On Being an Atheist." The paper must be at least 1,500 words (approximately 6 pages) and must reflect an understanding of material covered in the course.

- F. Quizzes (8)

The student will take a quiz in each module/week of the course. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes and will cover the course material for the assigned module/week. The student will have 45 minutes to answer 20 multiple-choice, true/false, and/or short-answer questions.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

- A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Group Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Essay	120
Response Paper	200
Quizzes (8 at 60 pts ea)	480

Total 1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PHIL 201

Textbooks: Dew & Foreman, *How Do We Know? An Introduction to Epistemology* (2014).
 Evans & Manis, *Philosophy of Religion: Thinking about Faith* (2009).
 Foreman, *Prelude to Philosophy: An Introduction for Christians* (2014).
 Hasker, *Metaphysics: Constructing a World View* (1983).
 Holmes, *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions* (2007).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Foreman: chs. 1–3 3 presentations 3 study guides	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Quiz 1	10 0 60
2	Foreman: chs. 5–7 2 presentations 3 study guides	Quiz 2	60
3	Hasker: chs. 1–3 4 presentations 1 synopsis 3 study guides	Group DB Forum 1 Quiz 3	100 60
4	Dew & Foreman: chs. 1–4 3 presentations 3 study guides	Quiz 4	60
5	Dew & Foreman: chs. 7–8, 10 3 presentations 1 synopsis 2 excerpts 3 study guides	Essay Quiz 5	120 60
6	Evans & Manis: chs. 1–3 2 presentations 1 excerpt 3 study guides	Quiz 6	60
7	Evans & Manis: ch. 7 Holmes: chs. 1–3 2 presentations 3 study guides 1 article	Response Paper Quiz 7	200 60

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Holmes: chs. 4–7, 14 1 presentation 3 study guides	Group DB Forum 2 Quiz 8	100 60
TOTAL			1010

Group DB = Group Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.