



# PHIL 1301—Introduction to Philosophy

Course Syllabus: Fall 2019

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*“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”*

## Professor Matthew Lampert

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	1:00 – 3:00	11:00 – 2:00	1:00 – 3:00	11:00 – 2:00	by appointment	N/A

*The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.*

**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 Textbook(s):

All readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

### Recommended Reading(s):

All recommended readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

- Julia Annas, “Virtue, in me and in my society”
- Peter Wagner, “Autonomy in History”

### Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

### Course Objectives:

Students will read, analyze, and discuss major works from the history of Western philosophy while gaining an understanding of the history of philosophy in its world context.

**Lectures & Discussions:**

August	27	<b>First Day of Class:</b> Syllabus, Introductions, Etc.
	29	Lecture: What is philosophy? Laying the foundations...
September	3	<b>Reading:</b> Plato: <i>Meno</i> <b>Quiz #1</b>
	5	<i>Meno</i> , continued <b>Essay #1 Due</b>
	10	<i>Meno</i> , continued
	12	<b>Reading:</b> Aristotle: <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> <b>Quiz #2</b>
	17	<i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> , continued
	19	<i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>On the Soul</i> , continued
	24	<b>Reading:</b> Epictetus: <i>Enchiridion</i> <b>Quiz #3</b>
	26	<i>Enchiridion</i> , continued
October	1	<i>Enchiridion</i> , continued
	3	<b>Reading:</b> Rene Descartes: <i>Discourse on Method</i> <b>Quiz #4</b>
	8	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts I and II, continued
	10	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts II and III
	15	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts III and IV
	17	<b>Reading:</b> Thomas Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> <b>Quiz #5</b>
	22	<i>Leviathan</i> , continued <b>Essay #2 Due</b>
	24	<i>Leviathan</i> , continued
	29	<b>Readings:</b> Immanuel Kant: “What Does it Mean to Orient Oneself in Thinking?” and “What is Enlightenment?” <b>Quiz #6</b>
	31	Kant essays, continued
November	5	Kant essays, continued
	7	Kant essays, continued
	12	<b>Reading:</b> Karl Marx: <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> <b>Quiz #7</b>
	14	<i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , continued
	19	<i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , continued
	21	<i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , continued
	26	<b>Reading:</b> Jean-Paul Sartre: “Existentialism is a Humanism” <b>Quiz #8</b>
	28	<b>No Class</b> (Thanksgiving Break)
December	3	“Existentialism is a Humanism,” continued
	5	“Existentialism is a Humanism,” continued <b>Journals Due</b>
	10	<b>Final Exams Week:</b> Last chance to hand in late journals
	12	<b>Final Essay Due</b>

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

1. An **online course journal**. For each reading, I will give you a few response question(s); a few paragraphs should be sufficient in each case, but journals will be graded on relevance, completeness, and use of course material (your journal responses should show that you have read, and are applying, the assigned reading). Journals will be kept online throughout the semester, and **they will be graded at the end**. Journals will be due at the end of the semester, and should be submitted by the final day of class. Late entries will lose a portion of the credit, and all unanswered questions will receive no credit. **30%**
2. Weekly **in-class quizzes** (see schedule for specific dates); at the end of the semester, your lowest quiz score will be dropped; the rest will be averaged for your quiz grade. **You must be present to take the quiz, which will be given at the very beginning of class**—quizzes will not be sent home, nor given as make-ups. A missed quiz is a zero. **30%**
3. A series of **three short essays**, developing a common topic. The first essay will be a critical summary of a short primary text; the second essay will make an argument; and the third essay will combine and critically expand upon essays 1 and 2. **20%**
4. **Class participation** is very important. This includes not only attendance (see below), but also active involvement in class discussion. I expect that each student will come in with some thoughts to share on each topic of discussion. **20%**

**Numerical grading scale breakdown:** At the end of this semester, I will assign you a letter grade based upon the percentage of the total points available for the semester that you have earned. My grading scale is as follows. **A:** 100%-90; **B:** 89.9-80; **C:** 79.9-70; **D:** 69.9-60; **F:** 59 or below.

**Tests/Exams:**

In-class quizzes will be given at the start of class on the following days:

<b>Quiz 1</b>	September 3
<b>Quiz 2</b>	September 12
<b>Quiz 3</b>	September 24
<b>Quiz 4</b>	October 3
<b>Quiz 5</b>	October 17
<b>Quiz 6</b>	October 29
<b>Quiz 7</b>	November 12
<b>Quiz 8</b>	November 26

Each quiz will be worth 5 points; the lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Assignments:**

Three short essays will be due over the course of the semester, on the following dates:

<b>Essay 1</b>	September 5
<b>Essay 2</b>	October 22
<b>Essay 3</b>	December 10

Each essay will be turned in through Blackboard and TurnItIn. Each essay must be submitted no later than noon on these days, or it will be considered late.

**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

1. Attendance means being present for the *entire class*. Either show up on time and stay for the entire session, or don't show up at all; arriving late, or coming in and out during class, is disruptive and will not be tolerated. In case we're unclear: a minute late is still *late*.
2. **Academic honesty is taken very seriously.** In a philosophy class, this means that sources used in papers or journals should be cited somehow (MLA style, Chicago style, etc.), and quotations from any text **clearly indicated**. It also, more importantly, means not taking credit for the work of another. Plagiarism, handing in papers downloaded off of the internet, or any other case of a student handing in something he or she has not written will be **grounds for immediate failure of the class**, no exceptions. If you have *any* questions at all, *please* consult the college's policy, and/or see me directly: "I didn't know this wasn't okay" is *not* an excuse.
3. All handed in work **must be typed**, and I ask that you go through the step of spell-checking them first as well. If you do not have a computer or printer, you should plan on using the available computer labs at school.
4. **Your journal must be submitted through Blackboard** by the due date to be considered on time. **Do not email your journal to me.** I will **not** accept your journal via email. **If your journal is not submitted on (or by) the date it's due**, you will have only one week to submit a late journal. **All journal entries handed in late will be penalized 25%.**
5. Turn all cell phones off before entering the classroom, out of respect to fellow students and the discussion. Any student interrupting class with a cell phone or other noisy electronic device may be asked to leave the class for the day.

**NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:**

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

**Academic Ethics:**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Katherine Belew, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the College Connection. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the NTCC website - Special Populations.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory

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information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.