

PHIL101 | Introduction to Philosophy

Course Text

Moore, Brooke Noel and Kenneth Bruder. *Philosophy: The Power of Ideas*, 11th edition, McGraw-Hill, 2023.
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The text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment. Students may find used, new, or rental print copies by searching for the ISBN.

The course also makes use of free supplemental readings which are linked directly within the course.

Course Description

This course is a critical introduction to the discipline of philosophy. After defining philosophy and identifying the major fields of philosophical study, the course examines the history of Western intellectual thought, from the famous Greek philosophers up to the cutting-edge intellectuals of today. Along the way, the course delves into various thematic topics, including metaphysics, epistemology, free will and determinism, evil and the existence of God, personal identity, ethical values, and political philosophy. The course concludes with an analysis of different perspectives, including feminist philosophy and postcolonial thought.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and explain what philosophy is; describe the major branches of philosophical inquiry and their key questions.
2. Engage in the activity of philosophizing; present, analyze, and evaluate philosophical ideas in writing.
3. Discuss the main ideas of ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophy.
4. Examine the approaches of major philosophers to metaphysical problems.
5. Analyze and evaluate the views of major philosophical thinkers on the nature of knowledge.
6. Analyze and evaluate the ethical theories of influential philosophers.
7. Analyze and evaluate the influential approaches to political philosophy.
8. Examine influential arguments regarding the existence of God.
9. Examine the major themes and arguments of feminist philosophy.
10. Analyze the key tenets of postcolonial thought in Africa, the Americas, and Asia.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take Introduction to Philosophy.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript. Penalties for academic integrity violations can be retroactively applied upon discovery, and at our discretion.

Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Topic	Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
1	Reflective Response: Introduction to Philosophy	3	1, 2
2	Reflective Response: The Pre-Socratics	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Reflective Response: Socrates & the Examined Life	3	2, 3, 6
3	Reflective Response: The Cave Allegory	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4	Reflective Response: Aristotle on the Soul	3	2, 3, 4, 5
4	Essay 1: Plato's Metaphysics	215	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5	Reflective Response: St. Augustine & Skepticism	3	2, 3, 4, 5
5	Graded Exam 1	175	1, 3, 4, 5
6	Reflective Response: Cartesian Doubt	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7	Reflective Response: Hume on Causation	3	2, 3, 4, 5
8	Reflective Response: Sartre on Freedom	3	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
9	Reflective Response: The Principle of Parsimony	3	2, 3, 5
9	Graded Exam 2	175	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
10	Reflective Response: Moral Values and God	3	1, 2, 3, 6
10	Essay 2: Comparing Three Ethical Theories	215	1, 2, 3, 6

11	Reflective Response: Political Power & Human Nature	3	1, 2, 3, 7
12	Reflective Response: The Ontological Proof	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 8
13	Reflective Response: Gender Norms and Feminist Philosophy	3	1, 2, 3, 9
14	Reflective Response: Human Nature & Postcolonial Thought	3	1, 2, 3, 10
15	Graded Exam 3	175	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
		1000	

Course Roadmap *Graded items in **bold***

Intro | Introduction and Getting Started

Subtopics

- Welcome
- Academic Honesty

Assignments

- Welcome Video
- Academic Honesty and Integrity Lesson
- Statement of Academic Honesty and Integrity (required)

Topic 1 | Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophical Reasoning

Subtopics

- What Is Philosophy?
- Philosophic Questions
- Pressing or Fundamental?
- Misconceptions
- Tool Kit
- Divisions of Philosophy
- The Benefits of Philosophy

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 1 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 1
- Reading: Chapter 2
- Supplemental Videos: Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophical Reasoning (Optional)
- Pathfinder: A Philosophical Tool Kit
- **Reflective Response: Introduction to Philosophy**
- Practice Quiz 1

Topic 2 | The Pre-Socratics

Subtopics

- The Milesians
- Pythagoras

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 3 Presentation

- Heraclitus and Parmenides
- Empedocles and Anaxagoras
- The Atomists

- Reading: Chapter 3
- Supplemental Reading: Presocratic Philosophy (Optional)
- Supplemental Videos: The Pre-Socratics (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: The Pre-Socratics**
- Practice Quiz 2

Topic 3 | Socrates and Plato

Subtopics

- Socrates
- Plato

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 4 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 4
- Supplemental Videos: Socrates and Plato (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Socrates and the Examined Life**
- **Reflective Response: The Cave Allegory**
- Practice Quiz 3

Topic 4 | Aristotle

Subtopics

- What Is It to Be?
- Actuality and Possibility
- Essence and Existence
- Ten Basic Categories
- The Three Souls
- Aristotle and The Theory of Forms
- Aristotle's Theory of Knowledge
- Logic

Assignments

- Chapter 5 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 5
- Supplemental Reading: Aristotle (Optional)
- Supplemental Videos: Aristotle (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Aristotle on the Soul**
- Practice Quiz 4
- **Essay 1: Plato's Metaphysics**

Topic 5 | Hellenistic and Medieval Philosophy

Subtopics

- Metaphysics in The Roman Empire

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?

- The Rise of Christianity
- The Middle Ages and Aquinas

- Chapter 6 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 6
- Supplemental Videos: Hellenistic and Medieval Philosophy (Optional)
- Pathfinder: Natural Law Theory & U.S. Constitutional Theory
- **Reflective Response: St. Augustine and Skepticism**
- Practice Quiz 5
- **Graded Exam 1**

Topic 6 | Early Modern Metaphysics and Epistemology

Subtopics

- Descartes and Dualism
- Hobbes and Materialism
- The Alternate Views of Conway, Spinoza, and Leibniz
- The Idealism of Locke and Berkeley

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 7 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 7
- Supplemental Videos: Early Modern Metaphysics and Epistemology (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Cartesian Doubt**
- Practice Quiz 6

Topic 7 | The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Subtopics

- David Hume
- Immanuel Kant
- The Nineteenth Century

Assignments

- Chapter 8 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 8
- Supplemental Videos: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Hume on Causation**
- Practice Quiz 7

Topic 8 | The Twentieth Centuries: The Continental Tradition

Subtopics

- Brief Historical Overview of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 9 Presentation

- Existentialism
- Phenomenology
- An Era of Suspicion

- Reading: Chapter 9
- Supplemental Videos: The Twentieth Century: The Continental Tradition (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Sartre on Freedom**
- Practice Quiz 8

Topic 9 | The Twentieth Century: The Pragmatic and Analytic Traditions

Subtopics

- Pragmatism
- Analytic Philosophy
- Quine, Davidson, and Kripke
- Ontology

Assignments

- Chapter 10 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 10
- Supplemental Videos: The Twentieth Century: The Pragmatic and Analytic Traditions (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: The Principle of Parsimony**
- Practice Quiz 9
- **Graded Exam 2**

Topic 10 | Moral Philosophy

Subtopics

- Skepticism, Relativism, and Subjectivism
- Egoism
- Hedonism
- The Five Main Ethical Frameworks
- The Early Greeks
- Epicureanism and Stoicism
- Christianizing Ethics
- Hobbes and Hume
- Kant
- The Utilitarians
- Friedrich Nietzsche

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 11 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 11
- Supplemental Videos: Moral Philosophy (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Moral Value and Good**
- Practice Quiz 10
- **Essay 2: Comparing Three Ethical Theories**

Topic 11 | Political Philosophy

Subtopics

- Plato and Aristotle
- Natural Law Theory and Contractarian Theory

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 12 Presentation

- Two Other Contractarian Theorists
- U.S. Constitutional Theory--Applied Philosophy
- Classic Liberalism and Marxism

- Reading: Chapter 12
- Supplemental Videos: Political Philosophy (Optional)
- Pathfinder: Five Main Ethical Frameworks
- **Reflective Response: Political Power and Human Nature**
- Practice Quiz 11

Topic 12 | Philosophy and Belief in God

Subtopics

- Two Christian Greats
- Mysticism
- Seventeenth Century Perspectives
- Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Perspectives
- More Recent Perspectives

Assignments

- Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- Chapter 14 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 14
- Supplemental Videos: Philosophy and Belief in God (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: The Ontological Proof**
- Practice Quiz 12

Topic 13 | Feminist Philosophy

Subtopics

- The First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Waves
- Analytic Feminist Philosophy
- Continental Feminist Philosophy
- Feminist Moral Theory
- Sexism and Language
- Feminist Epistemology
- Two Contemporary American Feminist Philosophers
- French Feminist Philosophy and Psychoanalytical Theory
- Feminist Perspectives on Important Philosophers

Assignments

- Chapter 15 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 15
- Supplemental Videos: Feminist Philosophy (Optional)
- **Reflective Response: Gender Norms and Feminist Philosophy**
- Practice Quiz 13

Topic 14 | Postcolonial Thought; "Philosophy and Disinformation"

Subtopics

- Historical Background
- Africa
- The Americas

Assignments

- Chapter 17 Presentation
- Reading: Chapter 17
- Reading: Chapter 18

- South Asia

- Supplemental Reading: Colonialism (Optional)
- Reflective Response: Human Nature and Postcolonial Thought
- Practice Quiz 14

Topic 15 | Review

Assignments

- Pathfinder: Jeopardy Course Review
- Graded Exam 3
- End of Course Survey
- Closing Video

Related Courses

**ENG101: English
Composition I**

**FIN101: Personal
Finance**

**COM101:
Introduction to
Communications**