

## **Philosophy 1301-001: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

Instructor: Jolie Grout MAR, MA

Spring 2017/**MWF 10:00 am-10:50 am**

Lawrence Hall 00201

### **Course Syllabus**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to philosophy from a historical perspective. The course provides a survey of the dominant philosophies of the ancient, medieval and modern worlds by entering into the “Great Conversation” with the best minds history has produced.

### **COURSE REQUIRED READING:**

Norman Melchert, *The Great Conversation, A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, **ISBN-13:** 978-0199999651 **ISBN-10:** 0199999651

Selected articles and other materials to be determined

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMINATIONS, AND GRADING:**

**Attendance/Class participation (20%)** Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. In order to ensure credit for participation, students are required to carefully complete reading assignments prior to class, be attentive during course lectures, and be ready to participate in discussion at appropriate times.

### **Four written examinations (60%, 15% each)**

There are no make-up examinations in this course. There will be five examinations given and four will count toward the student's final grade. The lowest exam score will be dropped. The exams will be composed of

short answer questions (1-2 sentences) and essay questions (2-3 paragraphs) derived from required readings and course lectures.

**A 5-7 page paper (20%)**

Students will be given a choice of topics for the paper around the midterm point of the class. **The due date is Monday, May 8. Late work will not be accepted.**

**A (90-100%)**

**B (80-89%)**

**C (70-79%)**

**D (60-69%)**

**F (59% and below)**

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

All students are responsible for maintaining appropriate conduct while enrolled in classes at SRSU. Detailed information regarding student discipline and rights within this policy is available in the SRSU catalog and student handbook. Students who violate the Standards of Conduct and Discipline are subject to disciplinary action, which includes, but is not limited to, removal from class, suspension and expulsion.

**Academic Honesty:** You must submit your own work at all times. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and students caught using words or work of others as their own will be dropped from the class. Students caught cheating on exams will be given a zero for that particular exam and are subject to further disciplinary action.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. The telephone number is 432-837-8203.

## Class Rules

**Arrive on time and do not leave until class is dismissed.** (Please notify the instructor if there is a special circumstance in which you must arrive late or leave early.)

**No eating in class.** Drinking water or coffee during class is fine. (please clean-up after yourself)

**Turn off all cell phones.** (Please do not make or receive calls or texts during class)

**This course syllabus is intended to be a guide and may be amended at any time.**

## Introduction to Philosophy - PHIL 1301 - 001

Required Reading/Exam/Assignment Schedule Spring Semester 2017

*Textbook: The Great Conversation 7<sup>th</sup> Edition by Norman Melchert*

Wed. Jan. 18: Welcome to Introduction to Philosophy

Fri. Jan. 20: *A Word To Students*, p. xiii-xvii, Ch.1 p.1-9 *Before Philosophy*, Ch. 2 p.10-14  
*Thales & Anaximander*

Mon. Jan. 23: Ch. 2 p. 15-26, ***Xenophanes, Pythagorus, Heraclitus***

Wed. Jan. 25: Ch. 2 p. 26-38, ***Parmenides, Zeno, Atomism***

Fri. Jan. 27: Ch. 3 p. 39- 47, *Democracy, Persian Wars, The Sophists, Rhetoric, Relativism*

Mon. Jan. 30: Ch. 3 p. 47-59, *Physis & Nomos, Athens & Sparta At War, Aristophanes & Reaction*

Wed. Feb. 1: Ch. 4 p. 60-71, ***Socrates: To Know Oneself***

Fri. Feb. 3: Ch. 5 p. 72-86, *Euthyphro*

Mon. Feb. 6: Ch. 5 p. 86-104, *Apology*

Wed. Feb. 8: Ch 5 p. 105-117 *Crito, Phaedo (Death Scene)*

**Fri. Feb 10: (Exam 1) Covers Chapters 1-5**

Mon. Feb. 13: Ch. 6 p. 118-133 **Plato:** *Knowledge & Opinion, The World of the Forms*

Wed. Feb. 15: Ch. 6 p. 134-144 **Plato:** *The Love of Wisdom, The Soul*

Fri. Feb. 17: Ch. 6 p. 144-154 **Plato:** *Morality, The State, Problems with the Forms*

Mon. Feb. 20: Ch. 7 p. 155-166 **Aristotle:** *Aristotle & Plato, Logic and Knowledge*

Wed. Feb. 22: Ch. 7 p. 167-178 **Aristotle:** *The World, First Philosophy*

Fri. Feb. 24: Ch. 7 p. 178-195 **Aristotle:** *The Soul, The Good Life*

Mon. Feb. 27: Ch. 8 p. 197-215 **Epicureans, Stoics, & Skeptics**

**Wed. Mar. 1: (Exam 2) Covers Chapters 6-8**

Fri. Mar. 3: Ch. 9 p. 217-225 **Jews & Christians**

Mon. Mar. 6: Ch. 10 p. 226-242 **Augustine:** *Wisdom, Happiness & God, God & The World*

Wed. Mar. 8: Ch. 10 p. 242-258 **Augustine:** *Human Nature & Its Corruption, Human Nature & Its Restoration, Augustine & The Philosophers*

Fri. Mar. 10: Ch. 11 p. 259-270 **Anselm & Aquinas:** *Philosophy & Theology, Existence and Essence*

**Mon. Mar. 13: No Class/Spring Break**

**Wed. Mar. 15: No Class/Spring Break**

**Fri. Mar. 17: No Class/Spring Break**

Mon. Mar. 20: Ch. 11 p. 270-289 **Anselm & Aquinas:** *From Creation to God, The Nature of God, Humans: Their Knowledge, Humans: Their Good, Ockham and Skeptical Doubts*

Wed. Mar. 22: Ch. 12 p. 292-311 *Moving From Medieval To Modern*

Fri. Mar. 24: Ch. 13 p. 314-329 **Descartes:** *The Method, Meditation 1: On What Can Be Called Into Doubt, Meditation II: On The Nature of The Human Mind*

Mon. Mar. 27: Ch. 13 p. 329-341 **Descartes:** *Meditation III: On God's Existence, Meditation IV: On Truth & Falsity*

Wed. Mar. 29: Ch. 13 p. 341-354 **Descartes:** *Meditation V: On The Essence of Material Objects & More On God's Existence, Meditation VI: On The Existence of Material Objects and The Real Distinction of Mind From Body*

**Fri. Mar. 31: (Exam 3) Covers Chapters 9-13**

Mon. Apr. 3: Ch. 14 p. 356-372 **Thomas Hobbes, John Locke:**

Wed. Apr. 5: Ch. 14 p. 373-391 **John Locke, George Berkeley**

Fri. Apr. 7: Ch. 15 p. 393-405 **David Hume:** *How Newton Did It, To Be The Newton of Human Nature, The Theory of Ideas, The Association of Ideas, Causation: The Very Idea*

**(last day to withdraw from course with the grade of W)**

Mon. Apr. 10: Ch. 15 p.405-420 **David Hume:** *The Disappearing Self, Rescuing Human Freedom, Is It Reasonable to Believe in God?, Understanding Morality, Is Hume A Skeptic?*

Wed. Apr. 12: Ch. 16 p. 422-437 **Immanuel Kant:** *Critique, Judgments, Geometry, Mathematics, Space & Time, Common Sense, Science & A Priori Categories, Phenomena & Noumena*

**Fri. Apr. 14: No Class/Good Friday Holiday**

Mon. Apr. 17 Ch. 16 p.437-454 **Immanuel Kant:** *Reasoning & The Ideas of Metaphysics, Reason & Morality*

Wed. Apr. 19 Ch 17 p. 456-470 **GWF Hegel:** *Historical & Intellectual Context, Epistemology Internalized, Self & Others, Hegel's Analysis of Christianity*

Fri. Apr. 21 Ch 17 p. 470-481 **GWF Hegel:** *Reason & Reality: The Theory of Idealism, Spirit Made Objective: The Social Character of Ethics, History & Freedom*

**Mon. Apr. 24 (Exam 4) Covers Chapters 14-17**

Wed. Apr. 26 Ch 18 p.483-508 **Kirkegaard & Marx:** *Two Ways to Correct Hegel*

Fri. Apr. 28 Ch 19 p. 510-526 *The Utilitarians: Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill*

Mon. May 1 Ch 20 p.528-541 **Friedrich Nietzsche:** *Pessimism & Tragedy, Good Bye Real World, The Death of God*

Wed. May 3 Ch 20 p.541-560 **Friedrich Nietzsche:** *The Revaluation of Values, The Overman,*

Fri. May 5 Ch 21 p.562-586 *The Pragmatists: Charles Sanders Pierce, John Dewey*

Mon. May 8: **Research Paper due,** Ch 25 p.679-703 *Postmodernism: Derrida, Foucault, Rorty*

**Wed. May 10 (Exam 5) Covers Chapters 18-21, 25**