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Online Office Hours: email with questions

## **PHL 201 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (3) Beautiful Spring of 2020**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we will use reflective and critical reading, thinking, writing, and discussion to explore the methods and ideas of ancient and modern philosophy. The course focuses on the nature of reality, free will, determinism, the existence of God, knowledge, ethics, the nature of personhood, and whether there is a meaning in life. It features such important figures as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, James, and Sartre. Prepares students for other classes in Philosophy and Religion.

### **PERFORMANCE BASED LEARNER OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Conduct close, critical readings of difficult philosophical texts.
2. Critically appreciate and be able to articulate competing theories of the nature of reality, free will, determinism, God, knowledge, ethics, and personhood.
3. Assess the cogency of arguments in general, and especially, of arguments in philosophy.
4. Develop and articulate a reasonably coherent and well-supported personal worldview.
5. Use Philosophy to better understand and address personal, social, and political problems.
6. Use various forms of written and verbal discussion to articulate understanding and practical application of various aspects of Philosophy.
7. Write coherent essays using textual support, documentation (where applicable), and standard grammar/mechanics.
8. Thoughtfully and respectfully engage those who hold a different philosophical worldview.

### **REMARKS:**

- \* You are responsible for your learning process as much as for your work. Keep copies of assignments and “back up” your computer files. If absent, make sure to obtain notes from another student.
- \* Check LBCC email regularly as it is the instructor’s first point of contact. You may also want to check Instructor’s website since there may be some updated information during the term.

\* Incomplete grades are only an option for students who have finished at least 80 percent of the course work with a passing grade and are facing an emergency that prevents them from finishing the class. Requests for incompletes must be made to the instructor in writing.

\* Emergency. A policy exception may be made is if a student has kept in close contact with an instructor during an emergency, though that does not guarantee an exception.

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### **Final Grade**

Weekly Discussions	20%	200 points
In class weekly activities	20%	200 points
TEST # 1	20%	200 points
TEST # 2	20%	200 points
Term Paper	20%	200 points

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

A 90-100%   B 80-89%   C 70-79%   D 60-69%   F 59% and below

### **ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS**

**Readings** are due at the beginning of each week. Come to our online classroom ready to discuss and engage the material.

Please participate in our **weekly discussions** at least twice a week with last post by Sunday Midnight. Each week you will be able to get max 20 points.

Submit all of your **weekly assignments** by Sunday Midnight. Each week you will be able to get max 20 points.

**Essay** is due by noon on the date due (unless arranged differently in class). Late essays will not be accepted. Essay topics will be assigned in class.

**Tests** will be taken on the day scheduled unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor; otherwise, a zero will be earned. The tests will be composed of multiple choice questions, matching terms, definitions or essay questions.



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**Week Six**  
May 11th- 17th

***Epistemology- how do we know what we know?***  
READ: White, 249-261, Rationalism and the Mind  
TASKS: 1.Participate in discussion  
2. **TEST # 1** (weeks 1-5)

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**Week Seven**  
May 18th-24th

***Are there limits to our freedom?***  
READ: 1. White 261-281, Empiricism and the Senses  
2. Whirte 57-84, Determinism  
TASKS: 1.Participate in discussion  
2. Answer study questions

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**Week Eight**  
May 25th-31st

***Religion and Philosophy***  
READ: 1. White, 85-115, The Case for Freedom  
2. White 283-308, Question of God  
TASKS: 1.Participate in discussion  
2. Answer study questions

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**Week Nine**  
June 1st-7th

***A brief journey to the East***  
READ: White, 328-339, West meets East  
TASKS: 1.Participate in discussion  
2. TERM PAPER due

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**Week Ten**  
Jun 8th-14th

Wrapping up ...  
TASKS: 1. Review session  
2. Participate in discussion  
3. **TEST # 2** (weeks 6-10)

\*I reserve the right to modify this schedule at any time and introduce changes in the course.  
It is a responsible student's obligation to be aware of the changes announced during the term.

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

You should notify your instructor during the first week of class if:

- You have a documented disability and need accommodations,
- Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or
- You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must complete a Request for Accommodations form every term in order to receive accommodations.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to conform to all standards in Linn-Benton CC Student Handbook. This includes practicing both personal and academic integrity. Students are to respect the rights of all people and contribute to a safe, cooperative and respectful learning atmosphere.

Respect. We will maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect. Cell phones will be silenced during class unless arrangements are made with the instructor. There will be no text messaging, no headphones, no Ipods, no laptops except for note taking. One person talks at a time. To learn and grow together, people must feel free to share and explore ideas in a safe, open setting. Disagreement is fine, but it must be intelligent, considerate, and respectful. If a student is disruptive and/or disrespectful, the student will be removed.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. Students at Linn-Benton Community College are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are intentional or unintentional. Consequences for cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty may include receiving a score of zero on an individual assignment or failing the class.

If at any time you are not sure about the legitimacy of your writing, ask your instructor for clarification. Note: students may be required to turn in copies of any source they use.

## **ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

\*Students who do not contact the instructor prior to the start of the second class may be dropped per Linn-Benton Community College's No Show Drop policy.

\*Students may be required to submit electronic copies of their essays to their instructor for examination with Safe Assign and/or other plagiarism detection software.