

SYLLABUS
PHIL 1123-01- INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Summer I, May 27-July 1, 2008 MTWR

- **INSTRUCTOR - David M Turner**
- **TIMES AND ROOM: PHIL-1123-01, 1:00-3:00 p.m. MTWRF at GC-101**
- **PHONE: (501) 767-8581 (after 6:30 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m.) I prefer email**
- **E-MAIL: dturner@npcc.edu**
- **WEBSITE: <http://res.npcc.edu/dturner> (contains syllabus, class handouts and links for additional study)**

PREREQUISITES – None, suggest Composition I

REQUIRED TEXT: Wolff, Robert Paul., *About Philosophy* 9th Ed. Prentice Hall 2006 ISBN: 0-13-191606-8.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will provide an introduction to both the methodologies and personalities of the history of Western Philosophy. We will examine and summarize some of the basic philosophical theories of knowledge, metaphysics, science, ethics, social/politics, art, and religion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop the student's reasoning skills
2. To introduce students to major philosophical theories
3. To provide tools in reasoning for evaluating arguments

COURSE GOALS:

1. Students will be able to understand, analyze and evaluate the philosophical arguments presented.
2. Students will begin the process of developing and communicating their personal philosophical beliefs.
3. Students will learn to respectfully interact with a diversity of philosophical theories and traditions.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:

Students enrolling in a college need to prepare themselves to be well-informed and responsible citizens for a complex and culturally diverse world. It is the intent of NPCC to provide general education that will enhance common knowledge, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that every educated person should possess regardless of their career paths. The College will ensure that the General Education offered is consistent with its mission and designed to ensure breath of knowledge and to promote intellectual inquiry. The College also recognizes the importance of General Education related studies as integral component of technical education.

The College will strive through General Education to lead the student to:

- Write and speak clearly, concisely, and coherently.
- Reason and think logically and clearly (and critically).
- Understand world culture, past and present.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

A variety of pedagogical methods will be employed, dependent upon the nature of the topic studied. However, because of the character of philosophy expect the class to rely predominately on short lectures with extended class discussions. Lectures and discussions will be based in the theoretical and practical arguments presented in the text and teacher handouts. It is imperative that students complete all the assigned readings **BEFORE** the day that they are discussed. The nature of philosophy is to bring into the open volatile issues. Students will be expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy to other's views without making personal or derogatory comments. Understanding the issues takes precedence over deciding on a position on the issues. All written work, must be typed, double-spaced, and without spelling or grammar errors.

AVAILABILITY OF INSTRUCTOR:

Feel free to openly discuss with me any concerns you may have. As an adjunct I'm seldom on campus except for classes or by appointment. To discuss your needs or to make an appointment call me at 767-8581 (after 6:30 AM or before 10:00 PM) or email me (preferred) at dturner@npcc.edu.

GRADES:

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scheme:

Philosophical Journal (equals three tests)	30%
*Chapter exams (1,2; 3,8; 4,5; 6,7; Final exam [10% each])	40%
Term Paper (equals two tests)	20%
*Class Attendance and participation (equals one test)	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will be based on the percentage of points received. Grades can be challenged *in a written argument* (no e-mail) within 1 class day of when returned, but there are no guarantees that challenged grades will improve.

GRADE SCALE A: $\geq 90\%$ B: 89.9% - 80% C: 79.9% - 70% D: 69.9% - 60% F: $\leq 60\%$

Tests can be made up for legitimate emergency or medical excuses only. Papers and Review Questions will be reduced one grade for **each** class day late.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory. 10% of the total grade is based on class participation (implies presence). Each unexcused class (one day = two classes) will result in a 2 % deduction from the total grade up to 10 %. Additional absences will result in additional deductions or a request for the student to drop the class. Excessive absences can result in a failing grade regardless of the overall GPA of the class. I'll allow a student to enter class late (up to 10 minutes) if it is not habitual. 25 minutes late will counted as an absence. If you are late, please don't enter into discussions until you have comprehended the context of the discussion.

COURSE WORK:

Philosophy Journal/Scrapbook (30%). There should be two parts in your Journal/Scrapbook. **Part One:** As you read and study each chapter of your text, participate in class discussions, and scan philosophical issues online, many issues and questions will arise. Write, take notes and paste into your journal/scrapbook issues, questions, and quotations that are most relevant to you. Respond and discuss these in the form of reflections, meditations, logical inquiry and/or personal, imaginary conversations with the Philosophers. Mark each section in the journal by Chapter. **Part Two:** Socrates wrote, "The unexamined life is not worth living." This section is for you to examine you life. Ask yourself questions such as, "Who am I?", "What is the meaning of life?", "What and Why do I believe what I believe?" "Why am I here?", "Is there a God/gods?", and reflections/meditations on personal issues (such as ethical decisions) in your life. Part two is personal and will be scanned but not read by your teacher. Grammar and handwriting will not be graded. Grades will be based on how much reflection and time you put into both sections. In addition to content you will need the following number of pages: A (90+), B (80-89), C (70-80), D (60-70).

Philosophical Paper (20%). See supplemental material.

***Exams (40%).** There will five tests, four chapter tests (2 chapters/test) and a Final Exam. These tests must be taken on the date assigned. The final will replace missed tests or give the student a chance to replace the grade of one of the chapter tests. Students satisfied with their grade going into the final are not required to take it. The final is optional and cannot lower the student's grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Do not plagiarize. Your work should be your work. Give credit to those who deserve it. I'm very strict about this, so know what is considered Plagiarism. A plagiarized paper will result in a ZERO on the paper (20% of your total grade), or, if flagrant, an F in the class. Become familiar with the NPCC Catalog on Academic Honesty.

FOR STUDENTS WITH SPEACIAL NEEDS AND/OR DISBILITIES

It is my policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, accommodations to those who have disabilities, or special needs (caring for elderly parents or having children are examples) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities or special needs are encouraged to contact me during the first week of classes if they think such disabilities or needs could interfere with their coursework.

CLASS SCHEDULE: MWF (may be subject to change)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>
May 27T	Introduction	None
	What Is Philosophy	1-16 (chapter 1)
May 28W	Philosophical Ideals	16-22
	Philosophical Ideals, Review Questions (ch.1)	22-43

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Readings Due</u>
May 29R	Philosophy of Knowledge (Rationalism)	46-69 (chap. 2)
	Philosophy of Knowledge (Empiricism)	69-79
June 2M	Philosophy of Knowledge (synthesis)	79-82
	Philosophy of Knowledge, Review Questions (ch.2)	82-97
June 3T	EXAM on Chapters 1&2	
	Metaphysics (Definitions, Ultimate Reality)	Class Notes
June 4W	Metaphysics (Hobbs/Materialism)	98-108 (chap. 3)
	Metaphysics (Determinism)	108-115
June 5R	Metaphysics (Mental/physical link)	115-126
	Metaphysics, Review Questions (ch.3)	127-139
June 9M	Philosophy of Religion (World views)	Class handouts (chap. 8)
	Philosophy of Religion (Arguments for Theism)	419-439, class handouts
June 10T	Intelligent Design	
	Philosophy of Religion (Anselm, problem of evil)	439-445
June 11W	Philosophy of Religion (Existentialism)	404-419
	Philosophy of Religion, Review Questions (ch.8)	450-457
June 12R	EXAM on Chapters 3&8	
	Philosophy of Science	140-151 (chap. 4)
	Philosophy of Science (Popper & Kuhn)	151-167
June 16M	Philosophy of Science	167-174
	Philosophy of Science, Review Questions (ch.4)	177-189
	Ethics (Kant, Categorical Imperatives)	190-206 (chap. 5)
June 17T	Ethics (Utilitarian)	207-217
	Ethics (Virtue Ethics)	217-225
June 18W	Ethics (Feminist Critique) Review Questions(ch.5a)	225-243
	Ethics (Same-Sex Marriage)	245-255
	Ethics (Medical Ethics)	256-261
	Ethics, Term Paper Outline (optional)	261-266
	Ethics, Review Questions (ch.5b)	266-287
June 19R	Exam on Chapters 4&5	
	Social & Political Phil. (Capitalism, Utilitarian)	288-302 (chap. 6)
	Social & Political Phil. (Socialism)	303-312
June 23M	Social & Political Phil. (Social Contract) Paper Due	312-328
	Social & Political Phil. (Pluralistic Theory)	328-339
	Social & Political Phil. (Affirmative Action)	242-355
June 24T	Review Questions (ch.6)	
	Philosophy of Art (Plato)	357-368 (chap. 7)
	Philosophy of Art (Aristotle)	368-374
June 25W	Philosophy of Art (Marcuse & Danto)	374-389
	Philosophy of Art, (Censorship and the Arts)	391-403
	Review Questions (ch.7)	
June 26R	EXAM on Chapter 6&7	

COMPREHESIVE FINAL EXAM – Friday July 1 (Subject to change)

FOOTNOTE: This syllabus is a guideline and is subject to change at the author's discretion. All interpretations will be finalized on the principle of "author's intent". Since your teacher is the author, he knows the intent and his interpretation is final.