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To access COVID-19 information, please visit the Stay Healthy Lions Webpage.

PHIL 1301, 1CW, Introduction to Philosophy
COURSE SYLLABUS: **Spring 2022**
Mar 28, 2022 – May 13, 2022

Professor: Dr. Shamim Hunt
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: Email or Virtual by Appointment
University Email Address: *Shamim.Hunt@TAMUC.edu*
Preferred Form of Communication**:** Email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials

Required Textbook: *An introduction to philosophy*, W. Ross Payne. The text is available online for free.

https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/an-introduction-to-philosophy

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general introduction to critical thinking and logic. Study of basic questions of existence and knowledge. Satisfies Humanities option of University Studies. Prerequisite: ENG 1302

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Completion of this course provides the student with the knowledge to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
3. Read and analyze philosophical ideas.
4. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments.
5. Demonstrate Social responsibility through knowing oneself and one's role in influencing the society.

REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE COURSE INTERACTION

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a

semester. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed: Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Instructional Methods: This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

Email your instructor as soon as you complete your pre-test so the instructor can access and grade your work.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course: To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

ASSESSMENT

BAAS-OL Essay Prompt: Students will prepare an essay of at least 500 words that will compare and contrast a non-Western school of philosophy to one of the philosopher or philosophical concepts covered in the textbook for this course. The student will have an opportunity to improve the essay based on the feedback prior to submitting a final version on ecampus. Students are expected to utilize the feedback and make final improvements, and then submit the final, polished essay to their course project as a demonstration of competency in the content area.

BAAS-OL Course Pretest: Students will be exposed to a prompt in the pretest of the course as practice and preparation for creating an essay that will be required in the posttest. The grade received on the pretest does not count toward the final course grade, however the test itself, and this question, helps the student and the instructor by providing an inventory of the student's current level of competency in the content area. It is highly recommended that students utilize the essay prompt in the pretest as a practice activity using the feedback to assist the student in making improvements prior to completing the posttest.

BAAS-OL Course Posttest: Students will be exposed to the same essay prompt that was presented in the pretest as they attempt the posttest. The grade received on the posttest does count toward the final course grade, therefore it is important that the student be prepared and do their best work. Students should utilize the constructive feedback provided by instructors, as well as incorporate knowledge gained from the course content, in preparation of an essay demonstrating a high level of competency in the content area.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

1.   The focus of the first competency is learning to read philosophical material critically, analytically, and reflectively. It is also important to gain a basic understanding of what philosophy

is, its value, and how it is differentiated from other disciplines. This section will offer a concise review of logic, including the concepts of argument, validity, and deduction versus induction. Chapters 1 and 2.

2.   The second competency is a historical review of the philosophical views and supporting arguments of some of the key figures in Ancient Greek philosophy. Some attempt will be made to associate the ancient views with contemporary thinking. Chapter 3.

3.   The third competency is concerned with gaining an understanding of such distinctions as rationalism as opposed to empiricism, a basic grasp of the philosophy of science, and the philosophy of mind. Chapters 4,5,6, and 7.

4.   The final competency pertains to ethical issues such as how should I behave toward others, is there a meaning or point to my existence, and what is the best way to organize society? PRETEST AND POSTTEST FOR EACH COMPETENCY

The purpose of the competency pretests is to provide a baseline understanding of your knowledge in each competency.

The Posttest is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the competency. A score of 80 points or higher is required on the Posttest to demonstrate competency. If you score less than 80 points on any competency you will have an opportunity to review the material and re-take the competency Posttest. You may take the Posttest assessment up to three times. If you have not passed the competency in three attempts, you will work with an Academic Coach to determine another method of fulfilling the program requirements in this subject. If the term ends before you can demonstrate competency, you will receive a grade of "X" and be required to complete the remaining competencies in the next term.

GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on both the Culminating Project and Posttest is required to demonstrate competency and receive credit for the course. The following items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

Item	Worth
Posttest 1	20%
Posttest 2	20%
Posttest 3	20%
Posttest 4	20%
Course project	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

Learning Management System (LMS) Requirements:
View the Learning Management System Requirements Webpage.

LMS Browser Support:
Learn more on the LMS Browser Support Webpage.

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
Visit the Virtual Classroom Requirements Webpage.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the Brightspace Support Webpage.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the

correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

All emails from students should include:
- **Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. Phil 1301 – Posttest)**
- **Salutation**
- **Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)**
- **Student name and CWID after the body of the email**

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail online in the Student Guidebook.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette Webpage for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the Attendance Webpage and the Class Attendance Policy

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty Policy
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Module	Materials to Read or Review	Assignments with Due Dates
Module 1	Chapters 1 and 2	Before the semester ends
Module 2	Chapter 3, 4 and 5	Before the semester ends
Module 3	Chapters 6 and 7	Before the semester ends
Module 4	Chapters 9 and 10	Before the semester ends
Course project	Read the material provided	Before the semester ends

Note: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own). You will receive a zero for the assignment if you copy and paste from the text without giving credit. If you only have a quote, even with citation, you will still receive a 0 because a quote only does not show that you have understood the material. You must explain the material in your own words to show that you have understood the material to receive credit for the assignment.

Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Violation of these academic standards may result in removal or failure. Please see the TAMUC Catalog.