



PHIL 1301-01E-24930 Introduction to Philosophy
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2022

Meets 01/13/2022 through 5/13/2022; TR 11:00a-12:15p

Instructor: Stephen Graham, PhD

Office Location: Rm DTH 304

Office Hours: Contact me by telephone

University Email Address: Stephen.Graham@TAMUC.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Telephone

Telephone: 214-912-7996

For all communications, include a telephone number where you can be reached and your course name and number, viz. **PHIL 1301, Intro Phil.**

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Readings:

1. Logic: A Brief Introduction by Graham
2. <https://www.vox.com/search?q=firehosing>
3. *Meno* by Plato
4. Simile of the line by Plato with commentary by Graham
5. Meditations I & II by Descartes
6. Descartes' Quest for Certainty by Graham
7. *The Ontological Status of the Material World by Graham
8. *The Problem of Free Will
9. Comparing the ethical views of John Stuart Mill with Emanuel Kant
10. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy

Course Description

A study of the major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value and their practical application.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

1. The focus of the first competency is learning some of the basic vocabulary and concepts of Logic, including mastery of the following concepts: argument, premise, conclusion, proposition, deductive, inductive, certainty, degrees of probability, weak argument, strong argument, valid argument, sound argument, sentence variable, copula, argument form, fallacy, laws of thought, ambiguity, vagueness, thesis sentence, the structure of geometry, and axiomatic system.
2. The second competency is a historical review of the philosophical positions 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.
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.
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?

Attendance and Technology Requirements

Punctual class attendance and participation is a course requirement. Students are expected to promptly join each scheduled class meeting.

Course Calendar

01/13/2022	What is Philosophy?
01/18/2022	A Brief Introduction to Logic.
01/20/2022	Continuation of logic.
01/25/2022	Continuation of logic.
01/27/2022	Plato's Meno
01/28/2022	Plato's Simile of the Line
02/08/2022	Continuation of the Divided Line
02/10/2022	Continuation of the Divided Line
02/15/2022	Plato's Allegory of The Cave, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksq9nXwFbBs
02/17/2022	The Problem of Knowledge
02/22/2022	Descartes: cogito, ergo sum
02/24/2022	Descartes: noch einmal
03/01/2022	The Problem of the Ontological Status of the Material World
02/03/2022	Common Sense Realism
03/08/2022	Critical Realism
03/10/2022	Idealism or Phenomenalism
03/22/2022	The mind/body problem
03/24/2022	The mind/body problem
03/29/2022	The problem of free-will and determinism
03/31/2022	The Contingency of Language, Richard Rorty
04/05/2022	The Contingency of Language, Richard Rorty
04/07/2022	The Contingency of Language, Richard Rorty
04/12/2022	The Contingency of Language, Richard Rorty
04/14/2022	Ethics
04/19/2022	Ethics
04/21/2022	Ethics
04/26/2022	The Death of Ivan Ilyich
04/28/2022	The Death of Ivan Ilyich
05/03/2022	Last Day of Class, Tolstoy paper due
05/10/2022	Intro Final Exam Day

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following technological resources are required:

- Computer/Internet access and connection: high-speed preferred (not dial-up)
- Speakers - so you can hear enhanced audio assignments throughout the semester
- Headset/Microphone
- Webcam
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

This course may also require the following:

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it daily. Conversely, you are to email assignments and other messaging via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" before the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login into eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the _course, go to <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamucommerce.edu.

eCOLLEGE STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the toolbar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll-Free) to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e., How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions, etc.)

Course Concerns

If you have questions about the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact Dr. Graham via email at stephen.graham@tamuc.edu or telephone at 214-912-7996.

Other Questions/Concerns

Contact the appropriate TAMU -C department related to your questions/concerns. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Email is the best way to communicate, as it is checked daily. However, to avoid duplication of questions and answers, I prefer that you post all class-related questions in the Virtual Office course tab. Your peers will likely have the same question. Emails of a personal nature should be sent to my email address via eCollege.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. 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.

DROPPING THE CLASS

If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please contact your Academic Coach. Please be aware that dropping your course may impact your financial aid, veterans and military benefits, three-peat, 45-hour, and 30-hour rules. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course. If you fail to officially drop the class, a failing grade shall be assigned.

INCOMPLETES

If you receive a grade of "X" or Incomplete, you have one full term to complete the items that remain incomplete. If you have not submitted the necessary assignments by the end of the next full term, your grade automatically converts to an "F."

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

A student wishing to withdraw from all courses before the end of a term for which he/she is registered must clear his or her record by filing an application for voluntary withdrawal. Please contact your Academic Coach.

This action must be taken by the date stated in the Academic Calendar as the last day to drop a class or withdraw. Any student who withdraws from the university is subject to the conditions outlined in the section regarding Scholastic Probation or Suspension in the university catalog. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes if he or she does not plan to attend during the semester in which he/she has enrolled. A student has one year from the first day of a semester to appeal a withdrawal refund. Courses withdrawn are counted as attempted hours and count towards the three-peat, 45-hour and 30-hour rules and financial aid and veterans and military benefits.

INSTRUCTOR WITHDRAWAL

Your instructor of record reserves the right to withdraw a student from his or her course based on inadequate access to and progress in the online course materials.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Disability Resources & Services

STUDENT CONDUCT

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See 'Code of Student Conduct' from Student Guide Handbook)