



PHIL 1301.01W—INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Keith “Maggie” Brown
Office Location: DT Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 4pm – 5pm ON ZOOM
Office Phone: 903.886.5260
University Email Address: Keith.Brown@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email/Canvas**
Communication Response Time: Weekdays, within 3 hours; Weekends, within 1 day.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: No textbooks required.
Software Required: No software
Optional Texts and/or Materials: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

3 HOURS. 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

This class explores *philosophy as a way of life*. Therefore, as an introductory course, we will touch on how historic methods of philosophers help us discover better ways to live. We will be accomplishing, then, a reasoned consideration of major concepts, questions, and schools of thought about human existence. This includes explorations of such topics as knowledge, truth, self, freewill, divinity, good, evil, beauty, reality, happiness, and meaning.

Course Structure

This course takes place 100% online and is asynchronous (no scheduled Zoom meetings). Your interaction with me and with your fellow students will primarily take place in D2L, though I am available for Zoom office hours by appointment (contact details below, on the home page and syllabus). Since we are starting a couple of weeks late, there are about 12 weeks of content that you will move through. As I am a philosopher of existence, expect a lot of discussions that ask you to apply our course materials to discussions with your fellows and myself. Basically, we will always —what does it mean to be human? How can we heed the vocation of humanization?

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze key concepts and underlying assumptions associated with critical reflection on life.
2. Connect personal issues with social and political concerns
3. Critically evaluate possible actions and solutions for addressing ethical issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Minimal Technical Skills Needed:
Access D2L and other online resources
Post in Chat/Discussion Rooms
Submit work via assignment portals**

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Podcast with lectures, Videos with lectures, and Zoom Dialogs.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Be prepared to question the foundations of your own perspective on life, the universe, and everything.
- Respectfully interact with and take seriously perspectives different from your own.
- Be comfortable with complexity and ambiguity! Philosophical questions do not have single "right" answers, just as most of our global problems rarely have a single, easy fix.
- Cite sources, giving credit to where you obtain information.
- Make the commitment to spend at least 10 hours a week reading the assignments, reflecting on the material covered, questioning your friends/family, and participating in other activities throughout the course.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 900-1000 Points
- B = 800- 899 Points
- C = 700- 799 Points
- D = 600- 699 Points
- F = 599 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Discussions	70%
Final Project	30%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

1. **Weekly discussions:** 13 discussions worth a total of 700 points.
2. **Final project:** Three part philosophical exploration of where you have come from and where you see yourself going. Each section worth 100 points for a total of 300.

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 technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

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 here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please interact with me as needed via email or schedule a Zoom chat.

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.

University Specific Procedures

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 in the [Student Guidebook](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the webpages below.

[Attendance.](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-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.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Class got underway a bit late. Our first meetings began the week of 9/12/2022.

WEEK 1 (9/12)—Introduction and Problem Posing

WEEK 2 (9/19)—Origins of Philosophy

WEEK 3 (9/26)—Sources of Philosophizing

WEEK 4 (10/03)—Heraclitus and Change

WEEK 5 (10/10)—*Dào Dé Jing*

WEEK 6 (10/17)—*The Apology of Socrates* and Socratic Values

WEEK 7 (10/24)—Plato and Aristotle

WEEK 8 (10/31)—Seneca and Stoicism

WEEK 9 (11/07)—Augustine, Descartes, and Philosophical Faith

WEEK 10 (11/14)—Hume, Nietzsche, and Philosophical Uncertainty

WEEK 11 (11/21)—de Beauvoir and Ambiguity
WEEK 12 (11/28)—Camus and Absurdity
WEEK 13 (12/05)—On the Usefulness of Uselessness
WEEK 14 (12/12)—FINAL PROJECT DUE