



Humanities Department, Germantown Campus

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Professor: M. Georgevich

Semester/Year: Spring 2019

Campus: Germantown

CRN: 30978

Office: HS185

Office Hours: MW 1 - 2 PM

Office Phone: 240-567-7766

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mgeorgevich@towson.edu (please use Towson email for first few weeks of class)

Class Location: HS 209

Class Meets: MWF 10 - 10:50 AM

Course Description: “Introduction to philosophical analysis of the problem of knowledge, the problem of reality, and the problem of the good. Major philosophical attitudes of Western civilization are introduced. Special attention is paid to some of the philosophical implications of contemporary natural and social science. The basic themes of the course are that the major questions philosophy deals with are present in the lives of all persons; that we must clarify the questions, if possible, before we try to answer them; and that the basic questions are always concerned with the nature and meaning of human existence. (HUMD) PREREQUISITE: Second-year standing or consent of department. Assessment levels: EN 101/101A, MA 097/099, RD 120. Three hours each week.”

Required Text: Cahn, Steven, ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy, 8th Edition*.

In addition to the required text, handouts/articles will be provided for various topics. I will make these available electronically, and I encourage you to print them out for yourselves in order to bring them to class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe humankind’s perennial issues and questions in a thematic way: what is real, true, and good.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic questions in metaphysics such as questions of God, personal identity, and being in the world.
- Identify historical and current interpretations of truth and knowledge.
- Analyze ethical concepts such as what is good and what is right in a multicultural society.
- Distinguish between aesthetic and non-aesthetic experiences.
- Critically evaluate different schools of philosophical thinking.
- Identify and critically examine metaphysical or epistemological assumptions of a representative philosopher.

Department Policies:

Important Student Information Link

*In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The **link below provides** information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: **student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes.** If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.*

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

Academic Honesty: Montgomery College's policies on academic dishonesty are found in the *Student Handbook* and under *Section VIII of the Student Code of Conduct* available at the following link: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter_4. Each student is expected to do his or her own work. The minimum grade sanction imposed by a faculty member is to award an "F" on the assignment or test in which the dishonesty occurred. The maximum grade sanction is to award an "F" for the course in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, each faculty member has the prerogative of referring a case to the campus Dean of Student Affairs with a specific request that the Dean consider imposing additional sanctions.

Absence and Tardiness Policy: Attendance is fundamentally important in this class, and excessive absence/tardiness will affect the participation grade. Any student arriving after class has begun is tardy. You are responsible for all work assigned whether you are present or absent.

Classroom Behavior: Please review the *Standards of College Behavior* in the *Student Handbook* or *Section VII of the Student Code of Conduct* available at the following link: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter_4. The college seeks to provide an environment where discussion and expression of all views relevant to the subject matter of the class are recognized and necessary to the educational process. However, students do not have the right to obstruct the faculty member's ability to teach nor the ability of other students to learn. The instructor has the right to determine appropriate conduct in the classroom, and it is expected that students will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is respectful of their instructor and their peers.

Inappropriate behaviors include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Socializing with other students once class has begun.
2. Refusing to complete assigned tasks in the class or labs.

3. Sleeping in class, arguing with the professor or other students, showing disrespect towards the professor or other students, or disrupting the class in any way.
4. Using cell phones or texting during class.

Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave by the professor; if they do not comply, Security will be called. If a student repeatedly refuses to comply with classroom regulations, s/he will be referred to the Dean of Student Development.

Academic Support: In addition to seeking the help of the professor, students are encouraged to use the Writing, Reading, and Language Center on the Germantown Campus (HS150) for assistance with paper planning, writing, and review. See: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments.aspx?id=16341>

Disability Support Services: Any student who needs an accommodation due to a disability should make an appointment to see me during my office hours. In order to receive accommodations, a letter from Disability Support Services (SA 189) will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss.”

Delayed Opening or Closing of the College: Montgomery College will always operate on its regular schedule unless otherwise announced. Depending on the nature of the incident, notifications of emergencies and changes to the College’s operational status will be communicated through one or more communication methods including the College’s website www.montgomerycollege.edu. For the most up-to-date information regarding College openings, closings, or emergencies, all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up for email and text alerts via Montgomery College ALERT. Registration information is available at www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency. **In the event of a delayed opening, if a class can meet for 50% or more of its regularly scheduled meeting time OR if the class can meet for 50 minutes or more, it will meet.**

Communication: Montgomery College e-mail account is the official means of communication between the faculty member and the student. It is a student’s responsibility to check his or her MC e-mail for College and class information.

FERPA: The *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* prohibits the instructor from discussing a student’s grade and performance in the course with anyone but that student. All exceptions/allowances must be submitted in writing by the student.

PHIL101 satisfies a General Education Humanities Distribution requirement (HUMD), a General Education Institutional requirement (GEIR), or a General Education Electives requirement (GEEL). Montgomery College’s General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and their personal lives. For more information on the General Education Program, go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

Assessment of student work (What I mean by each letter grade)

A = The work fully engages with every aspect of the assignment or every part of a question in an examination, demonstrates excellent understanding of the subject matter, and shows that the student has considered all issues critically, responsibly, and accurately. In addition, the text is error free logically, grammatically, and in matters pertaining to historiography.

B = The work engages with every aspect of the assignment, demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject matter, and indicates that the student has considered the subject matter critically and responsibly. In addition, the text is error free logically, grammatically, and in matters pertaining to historiography.

C = The work engages with some aspects of the assignment, demonstrates at least a partial understanding of the subject matter, and indicates that, at least in part, the student has engaged in analytic thinking. For the most part, the text avoids errors.

D = The work engages minimally with the assignment but shows some evidence of consistent thought

F = No assignment is submitted or the work provided fails to do the task assigned, shows little or no grasp of the material, and indicates little or no thought behind the claims expressed

Grade Scale:

A	B	C	D	F
90 – 100%	80 – 89%	70 – 79%	60 – 69%	< 60%

Grading Policy/Requirements:

Attendance	05%
Participation	05%
Essay	30%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm and Final Exams	40%

Explanation of Requirements:

- 1. Attendance and Participation (10%):** Participation is central. Attendance is, therefore, required. Two unexcused absences are allowed, however all other undocumented absences will result in a grade reduction. Three tardies are equivalent to one absence. Do not come to class if you are ill or have flu-like symptoms. Students are responsible for all material discussed and for all announcements made in classes they missed. The use of technology is permitted only for those with documented learning accommodations. Texting in class will

negatively affect attendance and participation grades even if I do not explicitly call you out on it.

2. **Essay (30%):** Identify, describe, and critically examine a prominent argument in epistemology, moral philosophy, political philosophy, aesthetics, or metaphysics. Write a short argumentative essay. Your essay should be 3-4 pages long (before the “Reference” page), double-spaced, in a 12-point Times New Roman font, APA format, and should be researched. Your essay must include a “Reference” page at the end of it. Reflect on your analysis and research. Integrate what you learned into everyday life.
The grade will be broken up as follows: Final essay (20%) Preliminary outlining/drafts (10%). Further guidelines and rubrics will be posted to blackboard.
3. **Quizzes (20%):** There will be several quizzes throughout the term. Some will be announced while others will *not* be announced ahead of time. The purpose of a quiz is for me to understand how well the class is grappling with the course material.
4. **Midterm and Final Examinations (40%):** The midterm exam and the final exam will be worth 20% each, for a total of 40% of your grade. Students are responsible for making their own study guides, though you are not required to do so.

Make-up Work/Late Work: Students with documented, excused absences may make-up late work within two weeks of the due date. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the professor and arrange the make-up work. If you do not contact the professor and make up the work within two weeks of your absence, you will no longer be able to turn in the assignment and will earn a zero.

Unexcused late work will receive a 5% grade deduction for each day late.

Tech Policy: No electronics will be used in the classroom without express permission.

Professor G’s Approach to the Classroom:

You are in college now (*hooray* and congratulations!!) As college students, you are budding intellectuals, and my goal as your professor is to be a resource to help you grow and learn how to educate yourselves. I aim to create an environment suitable for the cultivation of philosophical habits, such as critical thinking, reading and writing. The best way to learn these habits is through practice!

In class discussions, my goal is to find a happy medium between what I find to be most important from the texts, and what you, as engaged students, would like to discuss. Thus, you have a valuable, integral role to play in making our class a fun and lively experience that will sharpen your academic skills. Learn to ask questions and request clarifications when you are confused. Take advantage of office hours, where you are always welcome.

Schedule of Readings

Readings are to be completed before coming to class on the date assigned

Jan 23 W	Introduction: What is philosophy?
Jan 25 F	How to read a philosophy paper
Jan 28 M	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , book 7, pp. 175-178
Jan 30 W	Cont...
Feb 01 F	Plato, <i>The Apology</i>
Feb 04 M	Cont...
Feb 06 W	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> and Special Guest Lecture: Dr. Michael Harding “Socrates in the Cave: On the Philosopher’s Motive in Plato” https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319768304
Feb 08 F	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>
Feb 11 M	Aristotle
Feb 13 W	Cont...
Feb 15 F	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>
Feb 18 M	Cont...
Feb 20 W	Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i>
Feb 22 F	Cont...
Feb 25 M	Logic handout posted to blackboard
Feb 27 W	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
Mar 01 F	Cont...
Mar 04 M	Midterm examination in class
Mar 06 W	Writing workshops: How to write a philosophy paper
Mar 08 F	Cont...
March 11-17	Spring recess for students and faculty
Mar 18 M	Augustine, <i>On Free Choice of the Will</i>
Mar 20 W	Cont...
Mar 22 F	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>
Mar 25 M	Cont...

Mar 27 W	Kant, <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i>
Mar 29 F	Cont...
Apr 01 M	Ethics Debate Quiz (Not an April Fool's joke)
Apr 03 W	James, <i>What Pragmatism Means</i>
Apr 05 F	Peirce, <i>Fixation of Belief</i>
Apr 08 M	Cont...
Apr 10 W	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>
Apr 12 F	Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i>
Apr 15 M	Nietzsche, <i>Twilight of the Idols</i>
Apr 17 W	Cont...
Apr 19 F	Sartre, <i>The Humanism of Existentialism</i>
Apr 22 M	Beauvoir, Introduction to <i>The Second Sex</i> , posted on Blackboard
Apr 24 W	Sartre and Beauvoir cont...
Apr 26 F	Ernest Hemingway, <i>A Clean, Well-lighted Place</i> , posted on Blackboard
Apr 29 M	Social and Political Philosophy, readings posted to Blackboard
May 01 W	Cont...
May 03 F	Cont...
May 06 M	Essay due, catch-up

Final Exam: May 13 M @ 10:15 - 12:15

Exam schedule: <https://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments2.aspx?id=48071>

Note: The syllabus is subject to change per the professor's determination.

If necessary, I will amend the schedule to best achieve the learning outcomes of the course in relation to the individual needs of our class. Check blackboard regularly to ensure you are up to date with current reading schedules and assignment due dates.