

Montgomery College
Humanities Department
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
PHIL 101

TEMPLATE

Textbooks and other resources (*all required*):

John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 7th Edition*. ISBN: 9780190200237

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.

PREREQUISITE(S): *Second-year standing or consent of department. Assessment Level(s): ENGL101/ENGL101A, MATH093/MATH096, READ120. Three hours each week. Formerly PL 201.*

Course Outcomes: Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Demonstrate 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.

Grading Policy: The final grade will be determined as follows:

Attendance and Participation	20% of Final Grade (200 points)
Philosophy Journal	20% of Final Grade (200 points)
Test 1	20% of Final Grade (200 points)
Test 2	20% of Final Grade (200 points)
Final Paper	20% of Final Grade (200 points)

Grade Scale:

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

Assignments:

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Each day that you attend and participate you will earn 7 points. For each unexcused absence you will thus fail to earn 7 points. Unexcused lateness will result in a 3-point deduction. If you are more than 15 minutes late, or leave more than 15 minutes early you will be counted as absent.

If you miss more than 3 classes for any reason, you will fail your attendance and participation grade. If you are late or leave early more than 5 times for any reason, you will fail your attendance and participation grade.

Questions during class discussion are welcomed and encouraged. Be aware that much of the course material can be controversial, and that discussions are discussions of ideas, never attacks on those who hold ideas. You are expected to maintain an attitude of respect to all during class discussions.

Philosophy Journal: You will keep a Philosophy Journal, worth 200 points. You will write 10 entries over the duration of the course (worth 20 points each), and in 1-2 pages (or 300-600 words) per entry, you will address the journal entry topic. Journal entries are designed to get you thinking about the course when you're not in the classroom, and to give you the opportunity to express ideas you may not have had a chance to bring up in class discussion. So, read the journal entry topic, think about the question, and use this occasion to be an original, creative thinker! Please type your journal entries. Although you will write journal entries throughout the course, I will only collect the journal entries twice during the semester; at the time of the midterm exam and during the last week of class. Details will follow on an assignment sheet.

Tests: There will be 2 tests in which you will be required to respond in short answer and essay format. Each test is worth 200 points. Details to be provided leading up to each test.

Paper: You will write one scholarly academic position paper, worth 200 points. Details will be given later in the semester.

Grading of Written Work:

An "A" paper is substantial, well developed and effectively organized and presented. It demonstrates original or thoughtful engagement with content and sensitivity to diction, tone, and style. Its sentences are clear, precise, and well-structured. The paper is appropriately formatted and virtually error-free.

A "B" paper contains a number of the strengths of an A paper, but it typically lacks the thoughtfulness, originality, and sensitivity of the superior paper. It is also virtually error-free.

A "C" paper fulfills the assignment and is adequately organized. The writer communicates ideas and develops a thesis, although supporting evidence may be minimal and organization rather mechanical. The writing is not marred by habitual or serious grammatical errors. Thought and expression are competent.

A "D" paper typically is marked by failure to focus on a thesis, poor organization, lack of development, or recurrent mechanical errors.

An "F" paper may ignore the terms of the assignment, or it may be devoid of thesis, support, or organizing principle. Typically it contains numerous mechanical errors that seriously interfere with comprehension; it may also be marred by serious errors in documentation.

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/>

Communication: The College considers the Montgomery College e-mail account to be the official means of communication between students and faculty. It is recommended that you check this account routinely for official communication or as directed by your professor. Some items you may find there are: course announcements, invoices, important admission/registration information, waitlist status. To check your e-mail, log into your MyMC online account and locate the e-mail icon in the upper right hand corner of the page.

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. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will be given an F for the assignment. If the same student is involved in a second incident of cheating, the case may be referred to the Student Discipline Committee, a grade of F for the course may be awarded, and/or the student may be dropped from the course.

Absence and Tardiness Policy: Attendance is required. Philosophy is a deep conversation about life, death, morality, knowledge, truth, and reality. A conversation requires both parties. Any student arriving after class has begun is tardy. *Please indicate how you count tardies.* You are responsible for all work assigned whether you are present or absent. *Please indicate your policy for students with excessive absences. We recommend: Excessive absences will negatively impact the participation grade. Students may not fail a class based on absence alone.*

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.

Disability Support: Any student who may need an accommodation due to a disability, please make an appointment to see me during my office hours. In order to receive accommodations, a letter from Disability Support Services (R-CB122; G-SA175; or TP-ST120) 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/evacprocedures.htm. The Takoma Park/Silver Spring DSS office is located on the first floor of the ST building. Here is contact information for the DSS office, as taken from the DSS website:

- Dr. Cathy Wilson, Counselor: Cathy.Wilson@montgomerycollege.edu Room ST137 240-567-1475 (VOICE or TTY).
- Edward Muchene, Counselor: Edward.Muchene@montgomerycollege.edu Room ST138 240-567-1477 (VOICE).
- Renee Gisriel, Student Services Specialist: Renee.Gisriel@montgomerycollege.edu Room ST227 240-567-1610 (VOICE).
- <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/>

Please note that even if you are entitled to take tests in the testing center, **deadlines still apply**. If you do not take a test by the due date, you will receive a zero for that test. It is your responsibility to schedule appointments at the testing center in a timely fashion. Test dates are available in the course calendar at the end of this syllabus; please schedule your test appointments now.

Also, students with disabilities are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct:

http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/pnp/#Chapter_4

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.

PHIL 101 satisfies a General Education Humanities Distribution requirement. 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. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop competency in oral and written communication and critical analysis and reasoning. For more information on the General Education Program, go to www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

Course Schedule (subject to revision):

<u>Week</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Tests and Exam Dates</u>
1	See Reading Detail	What is Philosophy?		
2	See Reading Detail	Socrates and Plato		
3	See Reading Detail	Logic and Argument		
4	See Reading Detail	Epistemology		
5	See Reading Detail	Epistemology		Test 1
6	See Reading Detail	Epistemology		
7	See Reading Detail	Metaphysics		
8	No Class	Spring	Break	
9	See Reading Detail	Metaphysics	5 journal entries due	
10	See Reading Detail	Metaphysics		
11	See Reading Detail	Metaphysics		
12	See Reading Detail	Metaphysics		Test 2
13	See Reading Detail	Philosophy of Religion		
14	See Reading Detail	Ethics and Political Philosophy		
15	See Reading Detail	Ethics and Political Philosophy	5 journal entries due Tue. 5/2	
16		Final Paper		Final Paper

Reading Detail

All reading listed below can be found in the course text *Introduction to Philosophy* by Perry, unless otherwise indicated.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Author, Selection</u>
1	Bertrand Russell, <i>The Value of Philosophy</i>
2	Plato, <i>Apology: Defence of Socrates</i>
3	Handout
4	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> ; Gettier, <i>Is Justified True Belief Knowledge</i>
5	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> ; Grau, <i>Bad Dreams, Evil Demons</i>

6	Hume, <i>Of Scepticism with Regard to the Senses</i> ; Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>
7	Russell, <i>The Argument from Analogy for Other Minds</i> ; Armstrong, <i>The Nature of Mind</i>
8	Nagel, <i>What Is It Like to Be a Bat?</i> ; Jackson, <i>What Mary Didn't Know</i>
9	Churchland, <i>Eliminative Materialism</i> ; Lewis, <i>Knowing What It's Like</i>
10	Chisholm, <i>Human Freedom and the Self</i> ; Turing, <i>Computing Machinery</i> ; van Inwagen, <i>The Powers of Rational Beings</i>
11	Dennett, <i>Intentional Systems</i> ; Parfit, <i>Personal Identity</i> ; Dennett, <i>Where Am I?</i>
12	Handouts
13	Handouts
14	Bentham, <i>The Principle of Utility</i> ; Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> ; Kant, <i>Groundwork</i>
15	Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> ; Nozick, <i>Justice and Entitlement</i>

Due Date Summary

Test 1	Midterm	Journal	Test 2	Journal	Final Exam

Check MyMC for details on specific dates for dropping, adding, refund, and related information.