

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE  
Department of World Languages and Philosophy  
Rockville Campus

## PHIL 101, Introduction to Philosophy Spring 2019

CRN 31824, TR 9:30–10:45 am, HU 222  
Geoffrey Batchelder, Ph.D., Instructor

*Email* is the best way to contact me outside class. Please use my official MC address, [geoffrey.batchelder@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:geoffrey.batchelder@montgomerycollege.edu). Questions, comments, and requests are welcome and will normally be answered within 48 hours; however, please *do not* try to submit assignments or other class materials by e-mail.

*Office hours* are TR, 11–12, but please stop me at the end of class or send an e-mail first rather than dropping by unexpectedly, as many issues can be resolved without a special trip. *Do not* put assignments or other course materials on or under my door or in my mailbox. All work for this course *must* be submitted in class.

*Blackboard*: Our course has a Blackboard shell where grades and course materials will be posted. This is *not* an online class however, so our use of Blackboard will be limited. *Do not* try to send messages to the instructor using the Blackboard messaging feature, as it is not monitored. Use regular e-mail instead for a prompt response.

**Description:** Introduction to philosophical analysis of the problems of knowledge, reality, and the good, and to major philosophical attitudes of Western civilization, with attention to some philosophical implications of contemporary natural and social science. Basic course themes are that major philosophical questions arise in all people's lives, that we must clarify them, if possible, before trying to answer them; and that such questions are always concerned with the nature and meaning of human existence. (HUMD) PREREQUISITE: Second-year standing or consent of the department. Assessment levels: ENGL 101/101A, MATH 093/096, READ 120. Three hours each week. Formerly PL 201.

**Readings and Supplies:** This class uses free online resources instead of a printed textbook, so regular and dependable access to a computer or similar device is required. Most assigned reading and viewing materials will be linked or posted to our online Blackboard shell, but others may occasionally be circulated as paper handouts or placed on reserve in the library. Optional related books, films, or other media may be recommended from time to time or offered for extra credit. You will need a pen and notebook for taking class notes and a separate folder and supply of college-ruled loose-leaf paper for keeping a journal.

## Requirements and Grades

*Assignments and due dates:* This class has three exams and a journal. Attendance and participation will be graded, and there may be several quizzes or in-class writing exercises. Grading weights and due dates for some of these may be found below; more specific details about format, subject, and the like will be distributed in class as the tasks are assigned. You *must* keep copies of all assignments submitted in this course. In the rare event your report, journal, or other assignment should be lost, you will need to supply a replacement copy.

*Grades:* The final grade in this course will be an average of the grades received on the various assignments and other components of the course, weighted according to the following schedule. Also included here is a guide to grade interpretation.

<i>Relative Weight</i>		<i>Scale Interpretation</i>			
		<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>QP</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Attendance	15%	A	90-100	4	Super
Participation	15%	B	80-89	3	Great
Exam 1	15%	C	70-79	2	Good
Exam 2	15%	D	60-69	1	Fair
Exam 3	20%	F	0-59	0	Poor
<u>Journal</u>	<u>20%</u>				
Total	100%				

*Academic dishonesty*, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, facilitation, and fabrication, is strictly forbidden under section 8 of the MC Student Code of Conduct. For any form of academic dishonesty, the penalty for first offenses will be a failing grade on the tainted assignment, and for second offenses, an “F” for the whole course.

Recycling or resubmitting work from other classes past or present is strictly prohibited. Students who resubmit work created for other courses will incur the same penalties that apply in cases of outright plagiarism. All work submitted for credit in this course must be written from scratch during the current term, solely and specifically for this course. Work from other courses or from other academic or non-academic settings is not acceptable.

***Attendance*** is required and worth 15% of the final course grade. Roll will be called at every class meeting, and each full and timely presence will earn 3½ points toward the final attendance grade. No penalties will be imposed for absence per se, but the *only* way to earn attendance points, without exception, is by being present. No distinction is recognized between excused and unexcused absences, so *no excuse notes* will be required or accepted. Late arrival or early departure, unless pre-authorized, will reduce earned attendance points in proportion to the amount of class time missed. Those missing roll-call should check in with the instructor at the end of class to be marked late instead of absent; no retroactive changes will be made to the attendance record. Excessive or recurrent lateness will not be tolerated.

