

Introduction to Philosophy

3 credits

Class Information		Instructor Information		First day of classes:	Wed., Jan. 6, 2016
Days:	W & F	Instructor:	Dr. Ken Nickel (PhD)	Last day to add/ drop/change to audit:	Sun., Jan. 17, 2016
Time:	9:45-11:00	Email:	knickel@ambrose.edu	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon., Feb. 29, 2016
Room:	2133	Phone:	410-2000 ext 6903	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri., Mar 18, 2016
Lab/Tut:		Office:	2103	Last day to apply for time extension for coursework:	Mon., Mar. 28, 2016
Final Exam: Saturday, April 16 th @ 9:00 AM		Office Hrs:	Drop in or by appointment	Last day of classes:	Wed., April 13, 2016

Textbook:
Required:

Abel, Donald C. (Ed.). (2012). *Fifty Readings in Philosophy* (4th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Recommended:

Vaughn, Lewis, and Jillian Scott McIntosh. *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Online Resource:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

Course Description:

The course introduces students to the broad survey of the Western philosophical tradition. Special attention will be given to enduring philosophical issues including, but not limited to, the nature of reality and knowledge, the existence of God, the mind/body problem, freewill and determinism, value theory and ethics.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students should learn and understand the classical and enduring philosophical issues related to metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology.
2. Students should gain knowledge of the most prominent and significant contributors to the Western philosophical tradition.
3. Students should develop an appreciation for the invaluable contribution that philosophy has made to other disciplines and fields such as natural science, social science, politics, law, education, and theology.

Course Schedule:

PH 125-1 COURSE OUTLINE¹

JAN 6 **Introduction**

“The safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato.” – Alfred North Whitehead

Plato’s *Apology* (**Reading 1**)

Plato’s *Crito* (**Reading 41**)

Plato’s *Euthyphro* (**Reading 11**)

Plato’s *Republic* : ‘The Cave’ and ‘The Divided Line’ (**Reading 13**)

JAN 8

JAN 13

JAN 15

Epistemology: What is knowledge? How is it acquired? What can be known? What can I know?

Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?; Gettier Problems²

Rationalism: Rene Descartes (**Reading 14**)

& Spinoza (*SEP* <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza/>)

Empiricism: John Locke & David Hume (**Readings 15 &16**)

Constructivism: Immanuel Kant (**Reading 17**)

Feminist Epistemology: Alison Jaggar (**Reading 18**)

JAN 20

JAN 22

¹ This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate timely issues or pressing pedagogical concerns.

² Gettier, Edmund. (1963). Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? *Analysis*, 23, 121-123. (Link provided.)

JAN 27

JAN 29

Metaphysics I: What is reality? What is the relationship between physics and metaphysics?

Materialism vs Idealism: John Locke (**Reading 15:** 161-164),

George Berkeley (SEP <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/berkeley/>)

G.W.F. Hegel (SEP <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel/>)

Richard Rorty (SEP <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rorty/>)

Linguistic Idealism (SEP <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/relativism/supplement2.html>)

FEB 3

FEB 5

FEB 10 **Midterm Exam**

FEB 12

FEB 17 READING WEEK

FEB 19 READING WEEK

Metaphysics II: The Mind-Body Problem: “Of what does a human being consist? How is consciousness explainable?”

Dualism: Rene Descartes (**Reading 19**)

Physicalism: Peter Carruthers (**Reading 20**)

Thomas Nagel (Reading 21)

The Christian Debate: Should Christians be dualists or physicalists?³

FEB 24

FEB 26

Metaphysics III: The Problem of Self Identity: “What am ‘I’? How do ‘I’ endure through time?”

Classical Psychological Account: John Locke (**Reading 22**)

Contemporary Biological Account: Daniel Dennett (**Reading 25**)

MAR 2

MAR 4

Metaphysics IV: The Problem of Human Action: “How do I make choices? Can I genuinely direct my life?”

Baron d’Holbach (**Reading 26**)

W.T. Stace (**Reading 28**)

Richard Taylor (**Reading 29**)

Nancy Holmstrom (**Reading 30**)

MAR 9

³ Plantinga, Alvin. (2006). Against Materialism. *Faith and Philosophy*, 23, 3-32. (Link provided.)

MAR 11

Philosophy of Religion: "What can I reasonably believe about God and his relationship to the world we live in?"

The Ontological Argument: St. Anselm (**Reading 3**)

Cosmological Arguments: St. Thomas Aquinas (**Reading 4**)

David Hume (**Reading 5**)

Religious Rationality: Blaise Pascal (**Reading 12**)

The Problem of Evil: J.L. Mackie (**Reading 9**)

John Hick (**Reading 10**)

- We will be considering the important contributions of Alvin Plantinga throughout this section. Some of Plantinga's works will be on 2-hour reserve in the library.

MAR 16

MAR 18

Moral Philosophy: What is the good life? What is morality about? What should motivate us to be moral?

Virtue Ethics: Aristotle (**Reading 32**)

Natural Law Theory: St. Thomas Aquinas (**Reading 33**)

Deontology: Immanuel Kant (**Reading 34**)

Utilitarianism: John Stuart Mill (**Reading 35**)

Christian Existentialism: Soren Kierkegaard (**Reading 36**)

Aesthetic Existentialism: Friedrich Nietzsche (**Reading 37**)

MAR 23

MAR 25 Good Friday – No Class

MAR 30

APR 1

Political Philosophy: "From what or who does a State authority get its authority? What is the relationship between law and morality? What are rights?"

Thomas Hobbes (**Reading 42**)

John Locke (**Reading 43**)

Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels (**Reading 45**)

John Stuart Mill (**Reading 46**)

John Rawls (**Reading 48**)

APR 6

APR 8

APR 13 Last Day of Class

APR 16 **9:00 AM - Final Exam - Airhart**

Requirements:

1. **10 Quizzes** 10%
 - Ten in-class quizzes will be administered randomly during the term. Each quiz is worth 1%. Students must be present to write the quiz and no make-ups are provided. Students who provide notification thirty-six hours in advance of an absence may be exempted from a maximum of two quizzes. The two lowest quiz grades will be excluded from the total quiz grade.

2. **Précis (short writing assignment)** 10%
 - Due Friday, February 5 @ 9:45 AM
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the Instructor to “**Turnitin**” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
 - Students must submit a précis to be eligible to write the final exam.

3. **Midterm Examination** 15%
 - Wednesday, February 10

4. **Research Paper** 25%
 - Due: Monday, April 11 @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the instructor to “**Turnitin**” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
 - Students who have not submitted research papers prior to the Final Exam will not be permitted to write the Final Exam.

5. **Final Exam** 40%
 - Date: Saturday, April 16 @ 9:00 AM in Airhart
 - Students must pass the Final Exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the Final Exam may fail the course.
 - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

Attendance: Please make every effort to be seated and prepared for class by 9:45. Students are expected to attend each class session with an engaged frame of mind. Students should be prepared to contribute thoughtful conversation to the topics under discussion. Twelve or more absences from class may result in a failing grade for the course. Attendance *may* be taken periodically during the term to confirm absences.

Grade Summary:

Letter Grade	GPA	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	≤ 49 %

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform College-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Other

Students are responsible to check the Moodle course site and their Ambrose e-mail accounts regularly. Moodle will remind students of upcoming topics and readings. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.

Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is prohibited.

Phones must be put away during class.

Lap top computers, I-pads, tablets, etc., are prohibited from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for students with relevant disabilities and needs. Students wanting to use lap tops in class must discuss this with the instructor personally. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.

The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean

Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Exam Scheduling

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office

in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.