

Introduction to Philosophy  
PHIL-1-52712  
Spring 2018  
MW 2:00-3:15  
Room LFS A

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Rard  
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**Office Hours:** MW 12:00-1:30  
TR 9:30-10:30

Description:

This course introduces students to traditional and contemporary views in metaphysics, epistemology, and value-theory. Topics may include the sources and limits of knowledge, the nature of reality, the relationship between mind and body, free will and determinism, the existence of God, and the nature of morally right action. Readings will include selections drawn from the primary texts of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, or Kant, as well as various twentieth century philosophers.

Required Text:

We will be using an Online Educational Resource Text as our primary text. The text can be found at:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/introbook-links.html>

In addition, supplemental readings will be posted to Canvas throughout the semester. A reading list will be available on Canvas with directions for finding all readings. The list will be updated as the semester goes on.

Grading:

Participation	10%	
Mini-Midterm	2%	(1 @ 2%)
Reading Reports	10%	(2 @ 5%)
Paper Outline	5%	
Argumentative Paper	25%	(1 @ 25%)
Midterm Exams:	30%	(2 @ 15%)
Final Exam:	18%	(1 @ 18%)

All assignments must be submitted as paper copies in class to receive credit.

Final Grade Breakdown:

<u>Percent of total points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
50-59.99	F

Attendance: Students who have more than **4 unexcused absences during the semester will be dropped from the class.** An absence will only be excused with documentation of a valid excuse. Instructor has final say as to what counts as a valid excuse, and what shall be accepted as appropriate documentation. Attendance will be taken at the very beginning of class. If you are not in your seat at the start of class you will be marked absent. It is the responsibility of the student to speak with the instructor after class if they are late to ensure that they are not marked absent for the day.

NOTE: The instructor does not guarantee that students will be dropped after having more than 6 unexcused absences. Hence, if you decide to drop this class it is your responsibility to actually drop the class. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 'F' for this course.

## Coursework:

**Reading Assignments:** Students are expected to complete readings before class and come prepared to discuss the readings. The date the reading is listed on the syllabus is the date we will be discussing the material so you need to read the sections prior to the class period the readings are listed for. It is recommended that students read all material at least twice, taking notes or creating outlines of the reading from which they can study.

**Participation:** Students are expected to come to class regularly having reviewed the assigned material. Students may not work on anything from another class during class time, nor may they use electronic devices for any purpose other than those related to this course (except in case of emergency). Students may use laptops, cellphones, etc. for class related activities such as viewing the textbook or taking notes. **To earn participation points** students must attend lecture regularly and participate in class discussions by asking questions or contributing comments. Some participation points can be earned by attending office hours, or by emailing your instructor with questions, although the bulk of your points must come from in-class participation. Merely showing up to lectures regularly will not be sufficient to earn full points for participation.

**Reading Reports:** Students will write two reading reports. Further directions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.

**Argumentative Paper:** Students will write one main argumentative paper in which they must demonstrate an understanding of one major issue in the history of philosophy. Students will be required to construct original arguments supporting a thesis that takes a side on the issue, as well give a critical evaluation of some of the classic arguments surrounding the issue. Further instructions for this assignment will be provided in class or on Canvas. There will be a corresponding outline assignment.

**Seating Chart:** A seating chart will be created during the first week of class. Students must sit in their assigned seats. Students who wish to change their assigned seats must ask the instructor. This is so that your instructor can keep track of your participation and be aware of your attendance levels, but more importantly it is so she can start to learn your names!

**Examinations:** There will be **three** exams in this course (two midterms and a final). They will be cumulative but will emphasize the material covered since the last exam. Anything in the readings or discussed in class is fair game for the exams. **Points may be taken off of your exam if you come to the exam late or if your cell phone makes noise during the exam.**

**Behavioral Standards:** Students are expected to do their best to be on time. Students should silence all cell phones before entering the classroom. **CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS IS ONLY PERMITTED FOR CLASS RELATED ACTIVITIES AND EMERGENCIES.** All students will treat each other with professional courtesy at all times. Students should participate regularly in class discussions and are encouraged to ask questions. Unless otherwise prompted, students should raise hands when they have questions or comments. Discussion with other students during class work is encouraged, provided the focus of the discussion is the work being completed. Please do not whisper amongst yourselves while the instructor

is lecturing, or while a fellow classmate is addressing the class with a question or comment. This is because such behavior is disrespectful to your fellow classmates, and because whispering, no matter how softly, is distracting to others. If you have a question during lecture then please raise your hand!

### ***Late work/Absences:***

**Exams:** Make-up **exams** will be granted on a case-by-case basis with **proof** of a valid excuse required. The instructor has final say as to what constitutes a valid excuse. If possible, students must discuss make-up exams with the instructor prior to the date of the exam. Failure to contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding missed exams may result in a score of 0 for the exam. Failure to provide documentation of a valid excuse may result in a score of 0 for the exam.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will receive a 1/3 letter grade deduction per day (not per class day). All assignments are due at the beginning of class. A 10-minute grace period will be given to allow for parking and printer issues. After that the first 1/3 grade deduction begins and will continue until midnight on the following day. At that time, a second deduction of 1/3 grade will be incurred. Thereafter another 1/3 will be added at midnight every day. Exceptions will only be made with proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization), and are at the discretion of the instructor. No late work will be accepted after the last day of regular class.

EMAIL TIME STAMP OPTION: Students may email their assignments for a timestamp if they are unable to make it on the day the assignment is due (same deadlines as above apply). This will get you a **submission time stamp only**, and all assignments must still be submitted to the instructor as paper copies within one week of the email, or the late clock restarts. If you use this option you must have a line at the top of the assignment that states that the assignment was emailed, and gives the date and time of the email. For example:

ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL ON 1/1/18 at 12:01 am.

Failure to include this information may result in the student receiving the full late penalty.

**Where to find your grade:** Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas prior to them being returned to students. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP.** All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor. Participation scores will not be posted until after

### **Special Needs Requests:**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the

integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

**Cheating** is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

**Plagiarism** is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Articulate metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical themes in the works of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, or Kant, as well as some representative twentieth century philosophers.
2. Apply standards for argument assessment in evaluating the arguments of the great philosophers and the arguments that the students themselves create.

### Objectives:

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Achieve a familiarity with and appreciation of the philosophic endeavor as a whole (i.e., its scope, concerns, purpose, and methods), the specific endeavors of a number of well-known philosophers, and the relevance of philosophical inquiry to their own lives.
2. Demonstrate that familiarity and appreciation through discussion and writing.
3. Recognize, describe, and distinguish between metaphysical, epistemological, and value-theoretic issues in a variety of texts.
4. Develop skills pertaining to the recognition, clarification, and evaluation of arguments, which they can apply both to the arguments of others and to those of their own making.

### Advisories:

#### ENGL 1A Reading and Composition

### Important Dates:

- 1/19 LAST DAY TO DROP FOR FULL REFUND
- 1/26 LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR A FALL 2017 FULL\_TERM CLASS IN PERSON
- 1/26 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2017 FULL\_TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" IN PERSON
- 1/28 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2017 FULL\_TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" ON WEBADVISOR
- 3/9 LAST DAY TO DROP A FULL\_TERM CLASS

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS (NO CLASS):

- 1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No Class)
- 2/16 Lincoln Day (No Class)
- 2/19 Washington Day (No Class)
- 3/26-3/29 Spring Recess (No Class)
- 3/30 Good Friday (No Class)

The following course schedule is **tentative**. The amount of time we spend on any given paper/topic will be partly determined by the energy of the discussion and the level of participation. Material will be removed from the schedule to allow for more in depth discussion when required. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Date	
1/8	Introduction
1/10	<b>ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY</b> Presocratics
1/15	<b>NO CLASS</b> Marting Luther King Jr. Day
1/17	Presocratics cont.
1/22	Mini-Midterm Presocratics cont.
1/24	Plato: Apology
1/29	Plato: Apology
1/31	Plato: The Myth of the Cave and the Divided Line <b>READING REPORT 1 DUE</b>
2/5	Aristotle: Substance, Cause and Change
2/7	Aristotle: The Sea Fight Tomorrow
2/12	Review
2/14	MIDTERM EXAM 1
2/19	<b>NO CLASS</b> Washington's Birthday
2/21	<b>MEDIEVEAL PHILOSOPHY</b> Anselm Aquinas
2/26	<b>MODERN PHILOSOPHY</b> Descartes

2/28	Descartes/Locke
3/5	Locke
3/7	Berkley
3/12	Berkeley/Hume <b>READING REPORT 2 DUE</b>
3/14	Hume
3/19	Hume/Kant
3/21	Kant <b>Paper Outline Due</b>
3/26-3/28	<b>NO CLASS</b> Spring Recess
4/2	Review
4/4	MIDTERM EXAM 2
4/9	Paley Clifford
4/11	<b>AMERICAN PRAGMATISM</b> Pierce James
4/16	<b>CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY</b> Nagel Swineburne
4/18	Sartre Camus
4/23	Turing
4/25	Dennett <b>Argumentative Paper Due</b>
4/30	Dennett
5/2	Gettier
5/7	Gettier
5/9	Review
5/14	<b>FINAL EXAM 2:00-3:50</b>