

Course Code & No. – Section:	PHIL 101 – Section 1
Course Title (Credits):	Introduction to Philosophy (3)
Term & Year:	Spring / 2020
Course Ref. No (CRN):	10287
Instructor:	Dan O’Bryan
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Email:	dobryan@sierranevada.edu
Office:	PL 301
Office Hours:	MW 9:00-10:00, 12:00-5:00
Class Meeting Time:	MW 3:00-4:45
Location:	PL 214
Prerequisites:	Senior Standing
Corequisites:	None

Course Description

Examination of the basic questions of philosophy and consideration of some of the answers philosophers have provided from the pre-Socratics to the present. Answers, however, are not the main emphasis of the course, but rather developing a sense of the importance of philosophy as a continuing quest and as a central human activity.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Grasp the major schools of Western philosophy;
2. Understand the chronological development of philosophy from the Greeks to the present;
3. Effectively use and understand a basic philosophical vocabulary;
4. Realize the strengths and weaknesses of the Western tradition;
5. Develop a consistent philosophical orientation toward life.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Readings of increasing levels of difficulty;
2. Frequent examinations;
3. The development of a philosophical orientation toward life;
4. Classroom discussions based upon close reading.

Instructional Strategies

Philosophy is best seen as an ongoing discussion. Therefore, discussion will be the primary means of moving through our text. Some introductory lectures and close analysis of certain texts will be very important, reinforced by frequent examinations and evidence of a consistent,

integrated philosophical worldview, but discussion will be the most important approach employed.

Required Text

Philosophy, A Text with Readings, Thirteenth Edition, Manuel Velasquez, Cengage, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-305-41047-3

Attendance

If absences exceed two for the term, a legitimate excuse, personal or medical, must be submitted. If no excuse appears, the third absence will result in a reduction of one grade point; the fourth, of two grade points; the fifth, of three grade points; the sixth absence will result in an F for the course.

Class Requirements

Food and drink will not be permitted in this class.

Once class begins, all members will be expected to remain for the duration of the class.

Tardiness is a royal pain and may result in bizarre consequences.

We will be using our text frequently in class; therefore, please bring it.

Grading Policy

Grading will be based upon the examinations, classroom participation and your personal philosophical orientation. Although the examinations, classroom participation and personal philosophical orientation will be the primary means of grade assessment, improvement throughout the course will be very important in terms of the final grade. A simple average of the grades from the examinations and your classroom participation and personal philosophical orientation will be the baseline for the final grade. If significant improvement occurs throughout the course, however, this fact will be taken into consideration.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect

for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore, faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences for Violating the Faculty/Student Honor Code:

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the honor code and consequences for violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, and FABRICATION and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the honor code become part of a student's academic record.

SNC's Disciplinary Sanctions for Honor Code Violations:

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Mail System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

THE FOUR SUSTAINABILITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.

THE MISSION: OUR GRADUATES WILL BE SCHOLARS OF AND CONTRIBUTORS TO A SUSTAINABLE WORLD. SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE COMBINES THE LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL PREPAREDNESS THROUGH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM THAT EMPHASIZES ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.

Class Schedule

1/22	Introductory	
1/27	The Nature of Philosophy	pp. 1-18
1/29	An Example of a Philosopher and the First Philosophers	pp. 19-50
2/3	Human Nature	pp. 50-107
2/5	Human Nature	pp. 107-149
2/10	Examination I, pp. 1-149	
2/12	Reality and Being	pp. 150-200
2/19	Reality and Being	pp. 200-249
2/24	Philosophy, Religion and God	pp. 250-290
2/26	Philosophy, Religion and God	pp. 291-335
3/2	Examination II, pp. 150-335	
3/4	The Sources of Knowledge	pp. 336-383
3/16	The Sources of Knowledge	pp. 383-425
3/18	Examination III, pp. 336-425	
3/23	Truth	pp. 426-485
3/25	Examination IV, pp. 426-485	
3/30	Ethics	pp. 486-532
4/1	Ethics	pp. 533-576
4/6	Examination V, pp. 486-576	
4/8	Social and Political Philosophy	pp. 578-621
4/13	Social and Political Philosophy	pp. 621-664
4/15	The Meaning of Life	pp. 666-682
4/20	Review	
4/22	Final Examination	