

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299
Winter 2017

Course number & Name: PHI101, Introduction to Philosophy

Credit hours: 4 Quarter Hours

Method of Delivery: Online

Course Description (IAI H4 900): An introduction to the various disciplines of philosophy, including epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and logic. Students gain insight into the philosophies of classical and contemporary philosophers and have an opportunity to evaluate their own beliefs and ideals relevant to the major areas of philosophical thought.

Prerequisites: None

Text(s) & Manual(s): *About Philosophy 11th Edition*

Author(s): Robert Paul Wolff

ISBN: 9780205194124

Publisher: Pearson Education, Inc.

Topics:

- What is Philosophy?
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics & Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Science
- Ethics
- Social & Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Art
- Philosophy of Religion

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate an appreciation of philosophy and what philosophers do;
2. acknowledge their acquaintance with philosophers including Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Leibniz, Hume, Kant, Hobbes, Newton, Bacon, Bentham, Rousseau, Kierkegaard, Marcuse, and Danto;
3. explore philosophical ideas and theories including Rationalism and Empiricism; Materialism, Idealism, and Dualism; The Scientific Method; Utilitarianism; Kant's Categorical Imperative; the Theory of the Social Contract; Laissez Faire Liberalism; Marxism; Danto's Theory of Artistic Identification; the Argument from Design; the Cosmological Argument; and the Ontological Argument;
4. examine philosophical disciplines including epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and logic;
5. consider their personal beliefs in relation to major areas of philosophical thought.

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
0 - 59 F

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor Information:

Name: Robert Fiedler
Office Hours: Email for appointment
Phone: (309) 692 - 4092
Email: rgfiedler@midstate.edu

Policies and Procedures:

All written assignments are due Mondays at 6:00 p.m. one week after they are assigned, unless otherwise noted. This assignment policy holds true for both eLearning and on-campus students. Late work will be accepted with a 10% penalty for each week that the material is past due.

Participation Information:

It is the policy of Midstate College's eLearning program that a student must post to a discussion forum twice each week in order to receive full participation points for the class. On-campus students will also be required to make two discussion forum posts each week. These posts are designed to simulate classroom discussion and interaction, and will be worth 10% of the student's final grade. The questions each week will be directly related to the material being studied.

Methods of evaluating student performance:

The objectives of this course will be measured against the student's performance on weekly assignments, a formal essay, and two exams. The grades received on the exams, essay, and weekly assignments (including discussion forum posts) will constitute the student's grade for the course.

Examination Information:

There will be two exams given in this course, a midterm and a final. The exams will feature a combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions and will constitute 40% of the student's grade in this course.

Instructor's Grading Scale:

Final grades for this class will be determined on a percentage basis as follows:

Participation: 10%

Chapter Questions: 30%

Essay: 20%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

(Note: Lectures may be Microsoft Word or PowerPoint. Students are expected to review all lectures and supplementary materials provided by the instructor.)

Course Schedule:**Week 1:**

Topic: Introduction to Course/What is Philosophy?

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Review course syllabus
- Read lecture for Week 1
- Read Chapter 1 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 2:

Topic: Theory of Knowledge

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 2
- Read Chapter 2 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 3:

Topic: Metaphysics & Philosophy of Mind

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 3
- Read Chapter 3 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 4:

Topic: Philosophy of Science

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 4
- Read Chapter 4 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 5:

Topic: Essay

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- *Essay assigned (due: 2/15 at 8AM)*
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 6:

Topic: Midterm

Objectives: 1-4

Assignments:

- Read midterm review materials
- **Midterm exam**

Week 7:

Topic: Ethical Theory

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 7
- Read Chapter 5 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 8:

Topic: Social & Political Philosophy

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 8
- Read Chapter 6 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 9:

Topic: Philosophy of Art

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 9
- Read Chapter 7 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 10:

Topic: Philosophy of Religion

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read lecture for Week 10
- Read Chapter 8 of the text
- Answer assigned chapter questions
- Answer discussion questions for participation

Week 11:

Topic: Practical Philosophical Applications

Objectives: 1-5

Assignments:

- Read supplementary text(s) as assigned
- Answer discussion questions for participation
- *Work on essay (due: 2/15 at 8AM)*

Week 12:

Topic: Final

Objectives: 1-4

Assignments:

- Final Exam (**due: 2/15 at 8AM**)
- Essay (**due: 2/15 at 8AM**)