



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Introduction to Philosophy - Section Syllabus

PHI 2010 – D9205

Fall 2025, Session A

Instructor: John Holder

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Final Exam Date: TBA

Last Date of Drop/Add: 8/22/25

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: 11/4/25

Course Description: In this course, students will be introduced to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, including topics from the Western philosophical tradition, and various problems in philosophy. Students will strengthen their intellectual skills, become more effective learners, and develop broad foundational knowledge.

Class Meeting Time: asynchronous

Class Location: online in Canvas

Semester Hours: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in [ENC 1101](#)

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Course Designations: College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Humanities requirement. A writing emphasis course.

Textbooks: Exploring Philosophy; Cahn; 9780197697436; 8th; Oxford; 2023

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None.

General Education Writing Emphasis Course Requirements:

1. All writing used to fulfill the writing emphasis requirement must possess the five characteristics of college-level writing: 1) have a clearly identified central idea or thesis; 2) provide adequate support for the idea; 3) be organized clearly and logically; 4) show awareness of the conventions of standard written English; and 5) be formatted in an appropriate fashion for the assignment.
2. A minimum of four (4) evaluated assignments, which may include the final exam, is required. Because an extensive amount of writing is intended by Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C., additional writing assignments may be used to satisfy this requirement.

3. The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.
4. All sections of a course must meet all requirements.
5. Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for all writing used to satisfy the requirement.
6. Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before the submission of the next evaluated writing assignment, with the exception of a final exam used to satisfy the requirement.
7. Only individual, original student work counts toward the extensive writing requirement; AI or machine-written content is not accepted.
8. The grading rubrics used for each writing assignment will be shared with students and will be uniformly applied as the assessment instrument in all sections of a course.

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

Grading Calculation	
Quizzes (2)	4%
Assignments and Discussion Forums (12)	36%
Essays (3)	30%
Final Exam	30%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Core Course Standard: Per Florida Statute 1007.25, "Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon."

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.
2. **Communication:** The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.
3. **Cultural Literacy:** Demonstrate an understanding of human culture.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the philosophical theories covered in the course.
2. Evaluate differing philosophical theories.
3. Compare and contrast differing philosophical theories.
4. Distinguish between the structures of inductive and deductive arguments.
5. Evaluate new information, methods, cultural systems, values, and beliefs in constructive ways.

Academic Dishonesty Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details:

<https://catalog.pensacolastate.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=47#academic-honesty>

Student Email Accounts: Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. This institutional email account is the official method of communication, and students must use this account when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility: It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement: Students with a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) must self-identify with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services (SRC/ADA). Disabilities covered by the ADAAA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact SRC/ADA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. SRC/ADA is located on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603, ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu, 850-484-1637. Students may also complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the PSC apps dashboard.

Equity Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Dean of Students at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Security Statement: Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement: In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.