



SYLLABUS

Introduction to Philosophy - Section Syllabus

PHI 2010 - D9247

Spring 2026, Session A

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Final Exam Date(s)	5 May 2026
Last Date of Drop/Add	15 January 2026
Last Date for Student to Withdraw	6 April 2026
Class Meeting Time	Asynchronous Online
Class Location	Asynchronous Online
Prerequisite(s)	Grade of C or better in ENC 1101
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.
Credits	3 credit hours
Semester(s) Offered	Fall, Spring, Summer

Course Designation(s)	College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Humanities requirement. A writing emphasis course.
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."
Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials	Exploring Philosophy; Cahn; 9780197697436; 8 th ; Oxford; 2023 The educational materials used in this course, including textbooks and ancillary materials, are intended for educational purposes only. All opinions represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of Pensacola State College or the instructor.
Minimum Requirements for Online Classes	Access to a Windows or Mac-based computer with a working webcam and microphone is required for this course. Mobile devices such as Androids, iPhones, iPads, or other tablets or Chromebooks are not recommended because of their limited functionality. Reliable, high-speed internet access is also required. Specific browser and computer requirements for using Canvas, PSC's learning Management System.
Course Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will develop critical thinking skills. 2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of classical Western philosophical views. 3. Students will analyze, explain, and evaluate foundational concepts of epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.
General Education Student Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

General Education Writing Emphasis Course Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 3. 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. 4. The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in 5. college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade. 6. All sections of a course must meet all requirements. 7. Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for all writing used to satisfy the requirement. 8. 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. 9. Only individual, original student work counts toward the extensive writing requirement; AI or machine-written content is not accepted. 10. 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.
Student Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Calculation	

Reading Assignments:

- **1/12-1/18**
 - R. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations One and Two
 - "What Can I Know" D.Z Phillips pp.82-84
- **1/19-1/25**
 - R. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations Three and Four
 - "Does God Exist" E. Nagel pp.291-296
- **1/26-2/1**
 - R. Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations Five and Six
 - "The Mind-Body Problem" P. Churchland pp.175-185
- **2/2-2/8**
 - R. Descartes & Princess Elisabeth, *Correspondence*
- **2/9-2/15**
 - R. Descartes & T. Hobbes, *Correspondence*
- **2/16-2/22**
 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I&II
 - "Meaning in Life" S. Wolf pp.738-739
- **2/23-3/1**
 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books III&IV
 - "Virtue Ethics" J. Driver p.400
- **3/2-3/8**
 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books V&VI
- **3/9-3/15**
 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VII&VIII
 - "The Meaning of Life" R. Taylor pp.729-735
- **3/23-3/29**
 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books IX&X
- **3/30-4/5**
 - Plato, *Republic*, Books I&II
- **4/6-4/12**
 - Plato, *Republic*, Books III&IV
 - "What is a Liberal Education" S. Hook pp.556-562
- **4/13-4/19**
 - Plato, *Republic*, Books V&VI
- **4/20-4/26**
 - Plato, *Republic*, Books VII&VIII
 - "Democracy" J. Dewey pp.551-554
- **4/27-5/3**
 - Plato, *Republic*, Books IX&X

Writing Assignments:

100%

Paper One

1,500 (+/- 10%) word paper written in accordance with the method discussed in class. Papers will be on topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology.

25%

Due 8 February 2026

Paper Two

1,500 (+/- 10%) word paper written in accordance with the method discussed in class. Papers will be on topics in Ethics

25%

Due 8 March 2026

Paper Three 1,500 (+/- 10%) word paper written in accordance with the method discussed in class. Papers will be on topics in Political Philosophy. Due 8 April 2026	25%
Paper Four 1,500 (+/- 10%) word paper written in accordance with the method discussed in class. Papers will be on topics in Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, and Political Philosophy. Due 4 May 2026	25%
	Total 100%
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
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; 9. clear and well-organized instruction.
AI Statement for Writing Emphasis Courses	Because writing emphasis courses focus on the foundational skills of critical thinking, rhetorical awareness, and information literacy, the work presented by students must be original. As such, the use of generative AI for graded assignments is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to assign a failing grade to an assignment determined to exhibit markers of generative AI use. In such instances, the student may challenge the failing grade and is responsible for demonstrating the originality of a submitted text. Continued registration in the course will be understood as acceptance of this policy.

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: Academic Integrity
ADA Statement	Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act of 2008 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss academic accommodations. Appropriate academic accommodations are determined on an individual basis with careful consideration of the course learning outcomes and the documentation of the disability. For more information, students should visit the Student Resource Center for ADA Services on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603; call 850-484-1637; email ADAservices@pensacolastate.edu ; or complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the MyPSC apps dashboard.
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.
Flexibility Statement	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.
Non-Discrimination Statement	Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex (as defined by applicable federal and state law), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or marital status in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Officer 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.

Student Email Account Statement	Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail 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.
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