**COLLIN COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Information

**Course Number:** PHIL 1301

**Course Title:** Introduction to Philosophy

**Course Description:** A study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications. Additionally, texts studied will be from ancient, medieval, and modern sources.

**Course Credit Hours:** 3

Lecture Hours: 3

**Prerequisite:** Meet TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* **State Mandated Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing. (Critical Thinking; Communication Skills)
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world. (Social Responsibility)

* **Additional Collin Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Recognize and understand principal issues and problems of philosophical significance in various historical philosophical works.
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and analytically about philosophical issues and problems as presented in various primary sources.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of philosophies from different cultures and perspectives by articulating the argumens and situating them within the appropriate cultural context.
4. Demonstrate personal responsibility by doing independent work in PHIL 1301 and properly citing all sources. (Personal Responsibility)

**Withdrawal Policy:** See the current *Collin Registration Guide* for last day to withdraw.

**Collin College Academic Policies:** See the current *Collin Student Handbook*

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-D140 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.

**COURSE NUMBER:** **PHIL 1301. P71**

**COURSE TITLE:** **Introduction to Philosophy**

**DELIVERY METHOD:** Lecture/Open discussion

**CLASS:** Tuesday - 7:00pm – 9:45pm (Room U107)

**PROFESSOR:** Andy Essary

**TELEPHONE:** 972-377-1506 (leave message)

**OFFICE / HOURS:** PRC (U107) Tuesday 6:30-7:00pm (by appointment)

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** aessary@collin.edu

**WEB SITE:** <http://faculty.collin.edu/aessary>

Credit hrs: **3** Lecture hrs: **3** Pre-requisite: Must have taken and passed the READ test with minimum grade

**College Repeat Policy:** A student may repeat this course only once after receiving a grade, including “W.”

**Student Technical Support:** Provided 24/7 at 972-377-1777 or sts@collin.edu

**Campus Security:** In case of emergency, contact Campus Police at 972-578-5555.

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to critical and reflective thinking as applied to basic problems of existence and to the meaning of human life. Selective philosophical problems are examined through the views of major philosophers. Studies will include ancient, medieval and modern thought.

This course is designed to help develop your ability to think critically as you mature and reflect on basic problems of existence, such as the meaning of life.

**II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The objective of this course is to teach you to do something you most likely thought yourself already capable – to think. Okay, I’ll admit you can think fairly well. Sitting in philosophy class means you have wisely chosen the class that may well have the most impact on your life. Nevertheless, I’m more concerned with the quality of your thoughts. I’m concerned with whether your thoughts are sufficiently clear, critical, reasoned, and reflective – like those of a philosopher. It is important to understand philosophy is an activity. Philosophers do hold opinions (in my case, a variety) on the questions they study, but you can’t study philosophy by simply memorizing those opinions. What makes an opinion philosophical is the reason provided in its support. In fact, much of the value of studying philosophy is learning how to understand, evaluate, and question these reasons. Knowing the answers is not the point of this course – it’s knowing the reasons behind the answers.

Finally, this course may provide you better insight into many of the political, cultural, and ethical issues that will arise in your life. Do not expect this course to provide you answers; it may, however, give you a little help in understanding some important questions and nourish your ability to seek your own answers.

**Specific Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

* explain the principal problems of philosophy;
* ask philosophical questions;
* think critically and analytically, as demonstrated in written and oral arguments;
* explain philosophies from different eras and perspectives.

1. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

## Reading of assignments:

##### Students are expected to complete all readings as assigned.

##### Class participation:

It is important that all students contribute during class discussions. **Your ideas matter!** The class fails to benefit from your thoughts if you fail to voice them. A diversity of views and your consideration of them will result in increased credibility for your ideas.

## Quizzes:

## The quizzes will cover assigned readings. You will not get from this class what you should without reading the assignments. I will provide you a take-home quiz each week to answer as you complete your assigned readings.

## Term paper:

You will be assigned a paper during the semester giving you the opportunity to express your ideas. The purpose of this assignment is to help you properly identify philosophical issues, and begin to engage in the process of clarifying your questions through writing. **Papers will be typed or computer-printed; 12 or 10 c.p.i.; double-spaced; ½ inch margin all-around; cover page with your name; and NO binder of any kind – single staple in upper left corner suffices.** Paper submissions failing to meet the above criteria will receive zero points.

1. Final exam:

The final exam will verify your grasp of theories and ideas you’ve read and discussed in class.

1. Cheating:

Cheating and/or plagiarism on any assignment in this class may result in a course grade of “F.”

#### IV. STUDENT EVALUATION

### Class participation (100); attendance (100); and tardiness (100) = 300

### Periodic quizzes = 400

### Position Paper = 200

### Final exam = 100

1000

**A** = 900 - 1000 **B** = 800 - 899 **C** = 700 - 799

**D** = 600 - 699 **F**  = 599 & below

**V.** **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend **ALL** class meetings unless absence is excused by instructor. Please see the current *Collin Registration Guide* for the last day to withdraw. Without exception, each absence will reduce a student's final point tally by **15** points if excused and **20** points if unexcused. Absences are excused at the teacher’s discretion and notice must be provided prior to class via e-mail. **15** points will be deducted for each tardiness.

**VI. CLASSROOM RULES**

## All electronic devices must be turned off. Unless I grant permission, none may be used.

##### The only conversations allowed in class will involve me as a participant.

**VII.** **REQUIRED TEXTS & SUPPLIES**

### Plato*,* ***The Republic***, ed. G.R.F. Ferrari, trans. Tom Griffith, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

### ISBN 0-521-48443-X

### Niccolo Machiavelli, ***The Prince***, ed. Quentin Skinner & Russell Price, trans. Russell Price, Cambridge University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-521-34993-1

Required supplies – 20 Scantrons

**VIII.** **COURSE CALENDAR**

**Week 1** Monday Aug. 27 Introduction

Wednesday Aug. 29 All there is

**Week 2** Monday Sept. 3 **Labor Day – NO CLASS**

Wednesday Sept. 5 More than All there is

**Week 3** MondaySept. 10 *Republic* – Introduction – Pages xi – xlviii

Wednesday Sept. 12 *Prince* – Introduction – Pages ix – xxxv

**Week 4** MondaySept. 17 *Republic* – Book 1 – Pages 1 – 36

Wednesday Sept. 19 *Prince* – Dedicatory Letter through Ch.III – Pages 3 – 14

**Week 5** MondaySept. 24 *Republic* – Book 2 – Pages 37 – 70

Wednesday Sept. 26 *Prince* – Ch.IV through Ch.VI – Pages 15 – 22

**Week 6** MondayOct. 1 *Republic* – Book 3 – Pages 71 – 110

Wednesday Oct. 3 *Confessions Book XIII* (excerpts) – Augustine (handout)

**Week 7** MondayOct. 8 *Prince* – Ch.VII – Pages 22 – 29

Wednesday Oct. 10 *Republic* – Book 4 – Pages 111 – 143

**Week 8** MondayOct. 15 *Prince* – Ch.VIII through Ch.IX – Pages 30 – 37

Wednesday Oct. 17 *Republic* – Book 5 – Pages 144 – 185

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Oct. 19 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 9** MondayOct. 22 *Prince* – Ch.X through Ch.XI – Pages 37 – 42

*Meditations on First Philosophy* – Descartes (handout)

Wednesday Oct. 24 *Republic* – Book 6 – Pages 186 – 219

**Week 10** MondayOct. 29 *Prince* – Ch.XII through Ch.XIII – Pages 42 – 51

Wednesday Oct. 31 *Republic* – Book 7 – Pages 220 – 251

**Week 11** MondayNov. 5 *Concluding Unscientific Postscript…* – Kierkegaard (handout)

Wednesday Nov. 7 *Prince* – Ch.XIV through Ch.XVII – Pages 51 – 61

**Week 12** MondayNov. 12 *Republic* – Book 8 – Pages 252 – 284

Wednesday Nov. 14 *Prince* – Ch.XVIII through Ch.XIX – Pages 61 – 72

**Week 13** MondayNov. 19*Is Belief in God Properly Basic* – Plantinga (handout)

Wednesday Nov. 21 **Thanksgiving Holiday (NO CLASS)**

**Week 14** MondayNov. 26 *Republic* – Book 9 – Pages 285 – 312

**TERM PAPER DUE**

Wednesday Nov. 28 *Prince* – Ch.XX through Ch.XXIII – Pages 72 – 82

**Week 15** MondayDec. 3 *Republic* – Book 10 – Pages 313 – 345

Wednesday Dec. 5 *Prince* – Ch.XXIV through Ch.XXVI – Pages 83 – 91

**Week 16** MondayDec. 10 **FINAL EXAM – 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Religious Holy Days:**

Please refer to the current *Collin Student Handbook.*

**ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of Collin County Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, **SCC D140** or **972-881-5898** in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**Academic Ethics:** Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students’ office for investigation. Students found responsible for academic dishonesty will receive a penalty ranging from a zero on the applicable assignment, to an F in the course, depending on the instructor’s interpretation of the severity of the incident. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission of one’s own work material that is not one’s own. Academic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher’s editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and academic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means:

**Plagiarism** is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation.

**Cheating** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance, copying computer or Internet files, using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were one’s own; or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**Collusion** is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

**See the current *Collin Student Handbook* for additional information.**