

**PL 101
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 2014**

**John Carroll University
Division V Core Requirement**

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kaye
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Office Hours: Please send an email if you would like to request an appointment.

Class Meetings: None. This is a 100% online course. You will need access to the Internet, your JCU email account, and Blackboard. Help with these, if needed, may be obtained by contacting the IT Help Desk during normal business hours (216-397-3005) .

Course Work: Four exams, each worth 10%
One paper, worth 15%
One peer review, worth 5%
Four dialogue questions, together worth 5%
14 sets of MyPhilosophylab assignments, together worth 35%

Required Text: *Consider Philosophy* –Bruce Waller (First Edition, Pearson)
With MyPhilosophyLab Online Access

Course Description:

The unexamined life is not worth living. This is what Socrates said in the fourth century B.C. He set out to examine his life, and in so doing he launched the tradition of Western Philosophy. How do I know what is true? Do I have a soul? Does God exist? Do I have control over my fate? How should I live? These are some of the questions philosophers ask. Anyone who takes time to think carefully about important issues can be considered a philosopher, but philosophy at its best is a discipline that requires training and practice.

In this course we will survey the central problem areas of philosophy through classic authors of the ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary periods. Our goal will be two-fold: first, to learn how these authors thought through philosophical problems; second, to think them through for ourselves. Our method will be to study the art of argumentation. By the end of the course you should be able to identify arguments, analyze arguments, and construct arguments of your own.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be calculated in accordance with standard university letter grades.

A = 92 and above A- = 90-92 B+ = 88-89 B = 82-87 B- = 80-81
C+ = 78-79 C = 72-77 C- = 70-71 D+ = 68-69 D = 62-67 D- = 60-61

F = 59 and below

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will write and speak knowledgeably about central aspects of and problems within the history of philosophy, as well as about philosophy's major historical figures.
2. Students will develop the skills necessary to critically evaluate arguments and evidence.
3. Students will develop the skills necessary to become critically engaged citizens.

MyPhilosophylab Assignments:

Purchase a textbook packaged with an access code for Pearson's MyPhilosophyLab web page (<http://www.MyPhilosophylab.com/>). Or, if you purchase a text without an access code, you can purchase the access code separately on-line. Register for our class at the MyPhilosophylab web page using our course ID code, which I will send you by email.

According to the timetable below, read the assigned chapter and then do just the post-test and the chapter exam. (You will be doing the pre-tests before the midterm and the final because they will help to show you where your understanding of the material may be weak.) You may resubmit any of these assignments as often as you like to get a better score. They are due by NOON on the days listed in the timetable below.

MyPhilosophylab has a 24-hour help line that you can contact if you are having technical difficulty.

Exams:

There are four exams for this course; all are required in order to pass. Unlike your weekly MyPhilosophylab exercises, the exams will appear under Assignments on Blackboard at noon on the appointed day (see timetable below). They are open-book tests to be taken on your computer from whatever location you please. You will need to read and study the chapters carefully in order to be able to answer the questions accurately within the time limit (90 minutes). The first exam covers chapters 1-3, the second covers 4-6, the third covers 7-10, the fourth covers 10-14. Each has between 70 and 80 multiple choice / true false questions.

Paper:

There is one formal essay paper for this course. It should be five to seven double-spaced pages long. The question for your paper is this:

Is the mind something more than the brain?

Your answer will of course be your opinion. It does not matter whether you answer 'yes'

or ‘no’; what matters is your ability to construct a well informed argument to defend your view. This will require defining key terms and explaining relevant background theories of classic authors discussed in your textbook.

Follow the instructions for paper writing found in the document “How to write a philosophy paper”, posted on Blackboard under Assignments. Be sure to develop objections to your position and respond to them. The paper is due by noon on the day listed below on the timetable. Late papers are automatically penalized 3% per day. Post it to the Discussion Board on Blackboard.

Peer Review:

The day after the paper is due, you will read the paper posted after yours on the Discussion Board and write a two-page, double-spaced peer review of the paper. Use the standards explained in the “How to write a philosophy paper” document for the critique. Post your peer review as a “reply” to the posted paper.

Dialogue Questions:

I look forward to keeping in close contact with you through email. Please feel free to email me your thoughts about the material at any time. To open a line of dialogue between us, I will email you an open-ended question each week of the course. Think about the question, connect it to your life, and email me a one-page double-spaced response to it by midnight the due date, listed on the timetable below.

Timetable

Date Reading Assignment

WEEK ONE		
Monday June 16	Introduction	Register on-line for MyPhilosophylab
Tuesday June 17	Chapter 1	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Wednesday June 18	Chapter 2	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Thursday June 19	Chapter 3	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Friday June 20		First Dialogue Question To help you review for the exam, watch the videos listed under “Chapter Resources” in chapters 1-3 on MyPhilosophylab.
WEEK TWO		
Monday		First Exam

June 23		
Tuesday June 24	Chapter 4	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Wednesday June 25	Chapter 5	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exams
Thursday June 26	Chapter 6	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exams
Friday June 27		Second Dialogue Question To help you review for the exam, watch the videos listed under “Chapter Resources” in chapters 4-6 on MyPhilosophylab.
WEEK THREE		
Monday June 30		Second Exam
Tuesday July 1	Chapters 7	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Wednesday July 2	Chapter 8	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Thursday July 3	Chapter 9	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Friday July 4	HOLIDAY	
WEEK FOUR		
Monday July 7		PAPER DUE
Tuesday July 8	Chapter 10	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Wednesday July 9		Third Dialogue Question To help you review for the exam, watch the videos listed under “Chapter Resources” in chapters 7-10 on MyPhilosophylab.
Thursday July 10		Third Exam
Friday July 11	Chapter 11	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
WEEK FIVE		
Monday July 14	Chapter 12	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Tuesday July 15	Chapter 13	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam
Wednesday	Chapter 14	MyPhilosophylab Chapter Exam

July 16		
Thursday July 17		Fourth Dialogue Question: Course Evaluation To help you review for the exam, watch the videos listed under “Chapter Resources” in chapters 11-14 on MyPhilosophylab.
Friday July 18		Fourth and Final Exam