Introduction to Philosophy

This course includes a topical survey of the three main branches of philosophy... epistemology, metaphysics and ethics ... and the contemporary questions related to these fields.

Prerequisite: ENG 100, RDG 100.

3.0 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Text and References


Course Focus

Philosophy is reflection on our fundamental beliefs about the world, about our values and about ourselves. Philosophers ask questions such as, “What is truth?” , “What is justice?” , “What is the meaning of life?” , “What is a person?” , “Are people free?” etc. These questions are of concern to everyone and each one of you has probably thought about one or more of them at some point in life – some of you have been prompted to do so by a powerful life experience such as the death of a loved one, others by a thoughtful book they have read or a movie they have seen, still others by a conversation with a close friend.

**PHI 101 CORE CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES**

All courses approved for the general education core curriculum help students develop critical thinking and/or communication skills.

This course develops critical thinking skills for students through weekly short answer essays, which require them to evaluate philosophical questions and consider how these various philosophic positions connect with their personal convictions or society’s moral standards. Students are provided with extra reading materials on the topic and are encouraged to seek out other material to support their arguments.

This course develops written communication skills through their weekly short answer essays as well as
through their participation in class discussions, which enable them to further assess philosophical issues and their application to the real world.

Course Goals
The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Contemplate free will and determinism *
2. Describe philosophical traditions *
3. Differentiate theory and observation
4. Debate traditional materialism
5. Name ethical theory varieties
6. Contrast three mind body theories *
7. Consider platonic distinction between reality and appearance
8. Discuss seventeenth and eighteenth century epistemologists
9. Differentiate empiricists and rationalists
10. Discuss Descartes method of doubt *
11. Read philosophical works
12. Research philosopher’s viewpoints
13. Name philosophical contradictions
14. Define metaphysics
15. Critique ontological argument
16. Critique cosmological argument
17. Consider Plato’s philosophy of art *
18. Define existentialism
19. Explore philosophy of religion
20. Contemplate argument from design theory
21. Illustrate utilitarianism principle revisions
22. Define social contract
23. Critique ethical theories *
24. Discuss medicines ethical dimensions
25. Debate utilitarianism
26. Assess moral beliefs *
27. Define key terms and concepts *

Student Contributions
Students are expected to be fully prepared for class by completing all reading assignments in full before the class session. Attendance is a critical factor to success in this class as lecture will enhance students understanding of reading assignments.

Course Evaluation
Your final grade for the course will be determined by the average of all exam/test/quiz scores and completion of all required assignments. See CLASS INFORMATION Section for specific details about scoring procedures and due dates.

TCL’s grading scale is:
90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
Course Schedule
The class meets for 3 lecture/presentation hours per week. The content will be introduced in the same order as they are listed in the course goal section. The content goals will be finished in a varied manner.

ADA STATEMENT
The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student’s responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the TCL Student Handbook, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE
The College’s statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in and communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.
- In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.
- When a student exceeds the allowed absences; the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor MUST withdrawal the student with a grade of “W”, “WP”, or “WF” depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student’s progress up to the last date of attendance or
- Under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.
- Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.
- A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.
A copy of TCL’s STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL) is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER
In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System.
www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE ALERT
Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

GRADING METHODOLOGY
The final grade must be 70 or more in order to pass the course and progress in the program. Students absent from an examination or presentation will receive a “0” grade for the examination unless other arrangements are made with the individual instructor prior to the examination or presentation day or on the examination or presentation day before the test/presentation is scheduled to be given.

The student is responsible for notifying the instructor for the reason of the absence. It is also the responsibility of the student to contact the appropriate instructor to arrange to make up the examination. Arrangements may be completed by telephone.

If the instructor is not available, a message should be left on the instructor’s voice mail AND with another member of the faculty or administrative assistant. The make-up exam will be scheduled and the instructor will decide the method of examination. Messages sent by other students are unacceptable.

Revised: 9/27/2012

Reviewed/Approved by Dean of Arts & Sciences 9/28/2012