



On-Campus Course Syllabus Undergraduate, PHI 415, L00.A Metaphysics & Epistemology Spring 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Thursday, 1st period, 08:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Room Number: E-207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Paul Golata

Instructor Email: pgolata@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 972.834.9258

Instructor Office Hours: N/A

Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of thinkers and issues related to studies of the nature of reality and theories of knowledge in Western thought.

Course Objectives

The student who successfully completes this course will demonstrate the ability to:

- Analyze and process the language of metaphysics and epistemology.
- Examine some of the major principles, ideas, and theories in the fields of metaphysics and epistemology.
- Link some areas of practical metaphysical and epistemological concern to contemporary life.
- Acquire an enhanced appreciation for the value of metaphysics and epistemology as related to faith and political economy.

Required Textbooks

Moreland, James Porter and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017. 978-0-8308-5187-4. BR0100.M68.

Other articles/sources as assigned. The professor will electronically post this material via .pdf, .doc, weblink or similar format.

Course Requirements and Assignments

See class schedule.

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Quizzes: Take online.

Essays: Done online and typewritten. Randomly selected students may be called upon to present their essays in class and may be asked to respond to comments and questions from fellow students and the professor.

- Late Penalty: -10%/day
- Name, Assignment Title, Class, Due Date all listed in **bold** in the header
- 1.0" margins throughout
- 12-point, Times New Roman (TNR)
- Single line spacing
- 0.5" indent for first line of paragraph
- One (1) complete blank line of single space between paragraphs
- Three (3) to six (6) paragraphs (several related sentences around a similar thought and/or line of argument) per paper is ideal
- Word Content Count provided at the end of the essay response
- Word Content Count to be 300–325 content words. Less or more incurs a penalty
- Parenthetical references for Scripture
- Proof-read
- Do not employ first person
- Thesis is to be:
 - Located in paragraph one (first paragraph)
 - One sentence in length
 - Highlighted in **bold**

* Articulate: express an idea fluently and coherently

* Explain: make an idea clear to someone by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts or ideas.

* Explicate: analyze and develop an idea or principle in detail

* Expound: present and explain a theory or idea systematically and in detail

Essay Responses:

* ≥ 3 paragraphs

* ≥ 3 sentences each paragraph

* Word content total: 300–325

* Bolded Hashtag (#BoldedHashtag): ≥ 3 key philosophical appropriate persons located outside of the Bible and its authors

* Bolded Hashtag (#BoldedHashtag): ≥ 3 key worldview and philosophical ideas/themes/principles

* Bolded Hashtag (#BoldedHashtag): ≥ 3 key Christian and/or biblical ideas/themes/principles

A typical essay prompt might look like:

Articulate, explain, explicate, and expound on a proper Christian philosophical understanding of ABCDEFG and HIJKLMNPO.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course, or if a student has a learning disability, please inform the professor so assistance can be provided.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at bstifle@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students Jeff Campbell, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Specific subtopics and the details regarding course assignments will be posted separately. The outline and schedule is subject to change based upon the discretion of the professor.

Selected Bibliography

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