



On-Campus Course Syllabus

PHI 201 SP.L1

Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2020

Class Information

Day and Time: Thursdays, 4:15 – 6:45 p.m.

Room Number: E-201

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Wooddell

Instructor Email: jwooddell@criswell.edu (Grader Parker Stilley: stilley15649@student.criswell.edu)

Instructor Phone: 214.818.1336

Instructor Office Hours: By appointment. Please email to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome if I am available (consult Karen Womack, 214.818.1387/kwomack@criswell.edu). Advancement Office is to the left as you enter the President's Suite on the first floor.

Course Description and Prerequisites

A study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics may include logic, theories of reality, knowledge, and value, and their practical applications. No prerequisites.

Course Objectives

1. Analyze and process the language of philosophical discourse.
2. Investigate some of the major historical thinkers in the field of philosophy.
3. Examine some of the major principles, ideas, and theories in the field of philosophy
4. Link some areas of practical philosophical concern to contemporary life.
5. Acquire an enhanced appreciation for the value of philosophy as related to Christian faith.

Required Textbooks

- Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. Any version. \$15.99 new (HarperOne). Several other versions are less expensive.
- Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas*. Wheaton, IL: 2018. ISBN: 1433563770. \$16.99.
- Other books / chapters / articles / sources as assigned.

Recommended Reading

- The Bible
- Copleston, Frederick. *A History of Philosophy*, 9 vols. New York: Doubleday.
- Cowan, Steven B. and James S. Spiegel. *The Love of Wisdom: A Christian Introduction to Philosophy*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009. ISBN: 0805447709. \$34.99.
- Criswell College *Articles of Faith*

- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>
- Moreland, J. P. *Love Your God With All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*, 2d edition, revised and updated. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2012. ISBN: 1617479004. \$15.99
- Moreland, J. P. and William Lane Craig. *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003. ISBN: 0830826947
- Nash, Ronald. *Life's Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013 (originally 1999). ISBN: 9780310514923

Course Requirements and Assignments

When taken for credit, this course is worth 3 credit hours. Items 1 – 4 below are intended to cover Course Objectives (above) 1 – 3 primarily, while item 5 below is intended to cover Course Objectives 4 – 5 primarily.

1. Weekly quizzes over the reading for each class meeting (**average is 20% of final grade**). Quiz questions might be any style or format, including but not limited to, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay, true/false, matching, listing, etc. Quizzes might be given online via Canvas (in which case they must be completed by the time class begins on that day) or in class with paper.
2. Midterm exam (**20% of final grade**). Midterm exam questions might be any style or format, including but not limited to, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay, true/false, matching, listing, etc., and may cover readings and/or material covered in class. Midterm exam might be given online via Canvas or in class with paper.
3. Final exam (**20% of final grade**). Final exam questions might be any style or format, including but not limited to, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay, true/false, matching, listing, etc., and may cover readings and/or material covered in class. Final exam might be given online via Canvas or in class with paper.
4. Reading Report (**20% of final grade**). Students will sign as to what percentage of the total reading they have done, including all assigned reading per the course outline/calendar below. Students should turn in their reading reports on the last class day (week 15), *not* the final exam day.
5. Essay (**20% of final grade**). Regarding Course Objectives 4 and 5 (above), students should write an 8-12-page position paper linking some area(s) of practical philosophical concern to contemporary life and show that they have acquired an enhanced appreciation for the value of philosophy as related to Christian faith. There is no minimum required number of sources or footnotes, but students should show familiarity with course materials and/or other philosophical literature. Assignment is due on the last class day (week 15).

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Attendance for this course: The final course grade for students who are absent more than two weeks of scheduled class meetings will be reduced by one letter grade. Those who are absent more than three weeks of scheduled class meetings will receive a failing grade. Students should be on time for class and remain present until class is dismissed. Those who arrive more than fifteen minutes late, leave more than fifteen minutes early, or return from break more than fifteen minutes late will be counted absent. Fewer than fifteen minutes in any instance counts as tardy. Three instances of tardiness equal one absence.

Recording devices, recording, use of technology, and social media: Students may not take pictures, video recordings, or audio recordings of anyone or anything course, class, or classroom related without prior, written

approval from the professor. Students may not post or share anything course, class, or classroom-related on any sort of social or other media without prior, written permission from the professor and any student(s) who might be affected.

Use of the following is prohibited during class: computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone, smart watch, ear buds, headphones, Bluetooth, or any other device typically considered electronic or “technology.” All such devices should not only be silenced but put on do-not-disturb or turned completely off (i.e., so they will not even vibrate) and put away. Students who fail to observe this requirement will be required to leave class for the rest of the class period, and they will be counted absent for that class period (see “Attendance for this course” above). Regarding emergencies – and thus potential exceptions to this policy – students should consult with the professor *before* class begins.

The professor may require a student to leave class for any reason *if the professor believes* the student poses a safety threat, is being disrespectful, or is being a distraction to the professor or other students.

All written assignments:

- Typed, not handwritten
- 1” margins
- If notes are used, use footnotes (not endnotes or parenthetical references)
- Parenthetical references for Scripture
- 12 pt. Calibri or Times New Roman font (only one font style throughout document, including footnotes and page numbers)
- Double spacing
- No subtle margin or spacing increases or decreases
- Hard copies must be stapled in upper left corner; no special bindings
- Printed on one side of the paper only
- Proof-read, or have someone proof-read, your work (no careless errors: i.e., grammar, spelling, form, style, punctuation, etc.). Read your work slowly and out loud in order to edit effectively.
- Students are encouraged to read Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style* to help improve their writing
- Number of pages required applies only to the body of the essay (not any title page, contents page, or bibliography/works cited page)
- First person preferred (if not overused)
- Avoid unnecessary use of passive voice

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	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	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

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

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 SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS 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 SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@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, at deanofstudents@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

Students must read assignments *prior* to coming to class each week.

Week	Date(s)	Assignment
1	1/23	Course Introduction
2	1/30	Sproul Introduction and 1; Lewis I, 1-2
3	2/6	Sproul 2; Plato, <i>The Apology</i> ; Lewis I, 3-5
4	2/13	Sproul 3; Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> book II; Lewis II, 1-2
5	2/20	Sproul 4; Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> book II; Lewis II, 3-5
6	2/27	Sproul 5; Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> First Part, Q2 The Existence of God; Lewis III, 1-2
7	3/5	Sproul 6; Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> Synopsis and I; Lewis III, 3-5
	3/9-13	Spring Break; no class
8	3/19	Midterm Exam
9	3/26	Sproul 7 & 8; Locke and Hume, TBD; Lewis III, 6-7
10	4/2	Sproul 9; Kant, TBD; Lewis III, 8-10
11	4/9	Student collaboration/discussion regarding essay assignments. Students should come to class prepared to discuss their essay topic and the work they have already completed on it. They will discuss how one another's work might be improved.
12	4/16	Sproul 10; Marx, TBD; Lewis III, 11-12
13	4/23	Sproul 11; Kierkegaard, TBD; Lewis IV, 1-2
14	4/30	Sproul 12-13; Nietzsche and Sartre TBD; Lewis IV, 3-8
15	5/7	Sproul 14 and Conclusion; Darwin and Freud, TBD; Lewis IV, 9-11
		Essay assignment due
16	5/14	Final Exam

The professor may add, delete, or change syllabus information per his discretion, with adequate notice given to the student. Students are responsible for information missed due to absence or not checking their Criswell email. **Students should check their Criswell email daily.**

Copies of student coursework (minus information identifying the student), including any submitted papers and/or portfolios, may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment, and accreditation purposes.

By participating in this course, students agree to abide by policies and procedures in this syllabus document, and by all Criswell College policies and procedures.