



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## PHI 201 L1

### Introduction to Philosophy

### Fall 2021

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

**Room Number:** Originally E-211 but moved to Dr. Wooddell's Office (Advancement; first floor)

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Wooddell; Grader: Parker Stilley

**Instructor Email:** jwooddell@criswell.edu; Grader's email: 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 w/Advancement Associate, Karen Womack, who sits outside my office. 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 on 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.

Instructors work closely with the Student Success Manager. To help provide resources to students who may need it most, I will communicate the names of students who have two consecutive absences, low grades, or any

other signs that they may be struggling. The Student Success Manager will reach out to these students and help find appropriate resources.

**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. While taking notes on a computer is acceptable, all electronic devices should be silenced or put on do-not-disturb; and students should avoid the distractions that come with their devices and the attendant technologies.

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 for sources other than Scripture, 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* and to consult the tutoring lab to help improve their writing
- Number of pages required applies only to the body of the essay (not to 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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

## 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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **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 instructor, 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 Supports

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Students must read assignments *prior* to coming to class each week. Weekly quizzes will take place at the beginning of class on Tuesday of each week.

Week	Date(s)	Assignment
1	8/17&19	Course Introduction
2	8/24&26	Sproul Introduction and 1; Lewis I, 1-2
3	8/31 & 9/2	Sproul 2; Plato, <i>The Apology</i> ; Lewis I, 3-5
4	9/7&9	Sproul 3; Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> book II; Lewis II, 1-2
5	9/14&16	Sproul 4; Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> book II; Lewis II, 3-5
6	9/21&23	Sproul 5; Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i> First Part, Q2 The Existence of God; Lewis III, 1-2

7	9/28&30	Sproul 6; Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> Synopsis and I; Lewis III, 3-5
8	10/5	Midterm Exam review
	10/7	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
9	10/11-15	<b>Student Development Week; no class</b>
10	10/19&21	Sproul 7 & 8; Locke and Hume, TBD; Lewis III, 6-7
11	10/26&28	Sproul 9; Kant, TBD; Lewis III, 8-10
12	11/2&4	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.
13	11/9	No class session; research and work on final essay
	11/11	Sproul 10 and 11; Marx and Kierkegaard, TBD; Lewis III, 11-12 and IV, 1-2
14	11/16&18	Sproul 12-13; Nietzsche and Sartre TBD; Lewis IV, 3-8
----	11/22-26	<b>Fall Break; no class</b>
15	11/30 & 12/2	Sproul 14 and Conclusion; Darwin and Freud, TBD; Lewis IV, 9-11
		<b>Essay assignment due; Reading report due</b>
16	12/7-10	<b>Final exam days. Exact date/time of final exam for this course TBA</b>

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, procedures, and ethical and behavioral standards.