



## Online Course Syllabus

PHI 303.L1

History of Philosophy: Ancient to Medieval

Fall 2022

### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Brent Thorn

**Instructor Email:** [Bthorn@criswell.edu](mailto:Bthorn@criswell.edu)

**Instructor Phone:** (enter your phone number(s))

**Instructor Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. or by appointment

### Course Description and Prerequisites

History of Philosophy: Ancient to Medieval This course introduces students to Western philosophy, exploring the works of thinkers and ideas from the ancient to medieval period

### Course Objectives

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate familiarity with the most significant ethical thinkers of Western Civilization from Pre-Socratic to Medieval Theologians
2. explain and critique important philosophical theories
4. evaluate the philosophical theories in the light of Christ, Christianity, and Biblical teachings

### Required Textbooks

*Voyage Of Discovery*

William Lawhead

ISBN: 1285195930

Edition: 3 or 4

### Recommended Reading

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

ISBN-10: 1624665322

Edited by S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, and C.D.C. Reeve

Augustine's *City of God and Confessions*

Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologica*

### Course Requirements and Assignments

#### Document Analysis Essays:

The format will be assigned and done in class and in groups. The focus will be on primary sources related to the chapter material. You will look up the date of writing, location, audience, and thesis. You will write a paragraph analyzing the work.

## Test Instructions

Three tests will be administered and a final exam. Tests will consist of objective questions, essay questions, and listing questions. If a student misses a test, no make-up will be given. However, the lowest test grade will be dropped. All Tests are taken online using a reliable internet and computer. Once opened, the test must be finished. Once closed, the test cannot be reopened.

## Critical Essay

The Critical Essay is a major grade. It must be typed, properly formatted according to the instructions given, well edited, and based on the original analysis of the student in line with college anti-plagiarism standards listed below. An electronic copy must be uploaded into Canvas on or before the due date. An assignment not uploaded to Canvas will not receive full credit since it does not have an originality report. An originality report that indicates plagiarism will receive a grade of 0.

## Discussions

Discussions entail one original post covering the topic assigned, demonstrating an understanding of the chapter material, and arguing for or against the presented ideas. Discussions also requires a reply to 2 classmates over the course of 24 hrs. The replies require adding substantive ideas to the discussion thread.

Deadline Policy: No late work is accepted. Instead, the lowest assignment grade is dropped and the lowest unit test is dropped.

## Online Course Information

(Faculty Instruction: All courses (including online courses) must contain for each credit hour “not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one-quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time” (Credit Hour Policy. Delete this paragraph before finalizing syllabus.)

In an online course at Criswell College:

1. Instructors and all students enrolled in that course meet using video-conferencing technology at scheduled class times through the course of a semester or term in order to meet 25–30% of the direct faculty instruction required by the college’s Credit Hour policy.
2. The remaining direct faculty instruction is delivered using other means such as:
  - Lectures/instruction for students to watch asynchronously
  - Online content modules in which instructor provides feedback to student work
  - Tests/quizzes on which instructor provides feedback
  - Discussion boards on which instructor provides feedback

Canvas: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool to host/deliver all instructional materials, discussions, assessments, files, and other peripheral tools and applications that support teaching and learning. In online courses at Criswell College, instructors design and use Canvas to:

- organize course content on a module basis using organizational tools within Canvas,
- control the timing of course requirements through module control or assignment due dates to ensure that students are engaged for the full length of the semester or term,
- accept assignments from students only inside the Canvas course (emailed assignments are not acceptable),
- provide written feedback on assignments only within Canvas, preferably through Speedgrader,
- use the Announcement or e-mail feature in Canvas to communicate to the students rather than by broadcasting to a class email listserv outside of Canvas.

Zoom in Canvas is used for all synchronous class sessions.

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.

Identity Verification and Evidence of Attendance: Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. In online courses at Criswell College, a student participates in class or otherwise engages in an academically related activity. These activities comprise items relevant to Identity Verification for Distance Education Courses. Acceptable evidence of attendance at an academically related activity in an Online course includes, for example, a student’s:

- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,
- student picture id submitted in the Canvas Account Profile,
- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in an online study group or discussion board that is assigned by the instructor,
- documentation showing that the student and a faculty member corresponded about the academic subject studied in the course.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

### Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to participate weekly during the weeks appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. Such participation may include the following: completing quizzes or exams; emailing faculty or class members as part of an assignment; discussion board posting or response; turning in an assignment; or other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. When unavoidable situations result in non-participation, 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 participation affects students’ ability to meet course learning objectives and whether participation affects course grades.

### Grading Scale

(Assigning grade definitions [i.e., above average, average, below average] is optional. Please delete the last column below if not assigning definitions. Additionally, delete these instructions when completing syllabus.)

|    |        |                                    | Grade Definitions (optional) |
|----|--------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 Support**

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). The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information can be found at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

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**

### **General Description of the Subject Matter of Lectures or Discussions by Week:**

Week 1

- Ch. Greek Culture
- Assignment Due: Discussion: Ch. 1 and Student Contract Quiz

Week 2

- Class Lecture/Discussion: Ch 2 Pre-Socratics and the Sophists

**Chapter 2 Pre-Socratics**

The Western tradition in philosophy is mainly owed to the ancient Greeks. Ancient Greek philosophers of record began appearing by about 600 BCE.

- Assignment Due: Ch. 2 Quiz

Week 3

**Chapter 3: Socrates: An Examined Life**

Despite his not writing a single written work, Socrates' influence on philosophy flows through Plato and Aristotle. His view of the soul, his method for finding truth, and his defense as described by Plato in his work titled *The Apology* continue to inform western thought. The goals for this chapter is to recount Socrates' life and death, learn the learning process call the Socratic method, and how this effects the soul.

- Written Assignment Due: Primary Source Analysis: *The Apology*

Week 4

- Class Lecture/Discussion: Ch 4 Plato: The Really Real

**Chapter 4 Plato:**

Plato's influence on Western thought cannot be overstated. From his theory of forms to his most famous student Aristotle, Plato's theories have either formed the philosophical foundation for Western cultural thought or required a response from those cultures that rejected his theories until the European Enlightenment. One author has said that to study philosophy is to study Plato, and the rest is merely footnotes to his thoughts. Plato was born in 427 B.C. in Athens Greece. He was Socrates best student, biographer, and disseminator of the Socratic method. Plato wrote a series dialogues, with the *Republic* being the most influential. His writings touch nearly every branch of philosophy with an attempt to create a systematic and unified theory of reality. Plato must be understood prior to moving forward historically.

- Assignment Due: Ch. 4 Quiz

Week 5

Ch. 4 Plato's Ethics

Week 6

- Class Lecture/Discussion: Ch 5 Aristotle

Aristotle is a towering figure in ancient Greek philosophy, making contributions to logic, metaphysics, mathematics, physics, biology, botany, ethics, politics, agriculture, medicine, dance and theatre. He was a student of Plato who in turn studied under Socrates. He was more empirically-minded than Plato or Socrates and is famous for rejecting Plato's theory of forms.

- Written Assignment Due: PSA: *Nicomachean Ethics*

Week 7

- Ch. 5 Aristotle's Ethics

Week 8

- Test #1

Week 9

- Ch. 6 Hellenistic Culture

Week 10

- Ch. 7 The Development of Christian Thought

Week 11

- Ch. 8 Augustine

Week 12

- Test #2

Week 13

- Ch. 9/10 Medieval Culture

Week 14

- Ch. Thomas Aquinas

Week 15

- Ch. 12 The Unraveling of the Medieval Synthesis

Week 16

- Final Exam: Comprehensive

Adjustments may be required to the schedule if TJC is officially closed following policy guidelines.

**Technology Requirements:**

- Students must be able to access the Internet and a printer for various purposes related to the course. Students will need to use a word processing program for all written assignments, and they must have a TJC student email account.

Additional Materials and Supplies Required:

**Methods of Evaluation:**

- We will use a weighted grading method in this course.
- Discussion 10%
- Quizzes 10%
- Essays 20%
- Critical Essay 20%
- Unit Exams (3) for a total of 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

**Selected Bibliography**

(Delete section if not needed)