



On-Campus Course Syllabus

PHI 201 L1

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2023

Class Information

Day and Time: Thursday 7:30pm-10:00pm

Room Number: E205

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Ray Wilkins

Instructor Email: rwilkins@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 972-740-6548

Instructor Office Hours: [By appointment](#)

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

- Cottingham, John G. *Western Philosophy*, 3rd ed. Malden: Blackwell Publishing. 2020. ISBN: 9781119165729
- Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas*. Wheaton: Crossway. 2018. ISBN: 1433563770.
- 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. Discussion Questions (**20% of final grade**). Throughout the semester there will be discussion questions posted in Canvas. The questions will be posted on **Sunday**. Each student must respond to the question by **Wednesday** of that week. Then, each student will respond to at least **two** fellow students before the assignment is due.
5. Essay (**20% of final grade**). Regarding Course Objectives 4 and 5 (above), students should write an 8-10 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. While taking notes on a computer is acceptable, all electronic devices should be silenced or put on do-not-disturb.

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.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they (1) anticipate being able to attend every on-campus class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, or (2) participating in academically related activities as identified in online-course schedules including synchronous class sessions conducted remotely by video, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any missed information. 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. Professors apprise students of such information in course syllabi.

Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships must meet specified requirements of various departments at the college and should consult relevant sections of the *Academic Catalog*. To ensure such funds will not be forfeited, students are responsible for contacting the proper departments to ascertain any specific course participation requirements and consequences of not meeting such requirements. Students receiving grants, loans, or scholarships should consult the Financial Aid office.

While Criswell College is a non-attendance taking institution, it nevertheless must demonstrate that students begin their courses in order to comply with Federal Aid regulations. Accordingly, students must participate in academically related activities during census periods. Failure to meet this requirement will result in students being administratively dropped from courses.

Academically related activity is defined as any course-related activity that may be used as evidence of attendance. Examples include:

- physical presence in a classroom during a class session with the instructor present,
- participation in a synchronous remote video class session with the instructor present,
- submission of an academic assignment, quiz, or exam,
- participation in an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction,
- participation in a 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 of the course.

NOTE: Logging into a Canvas course alone and logging into a Synchronous Online class

session without active participation or with the camera off are not considered attendance.

NOTE: A census period begins on the first day of a semester/term and runs through the end of the last day to drop courses. During the census period, attendance data is collected in order to demonstrate compliance with Federal Aid regulations. There is no census period for winter terms since there is no last day to drop courses.

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

			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	
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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.

Research and Writing Standards

The default writing style for written assignments in Criswell College Courses is the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian. However, instructors are free to require alternative writing styles in their courses. These styles include but are not limited to the American Psychological Association (APA), Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association (MLA), and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) writing guides.

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

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.

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. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website 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. Login credentials are emailed to students near the beginning of the semester.

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 schedule an appointment through Calendly (<https://calendly.com/criswell-tutoringcenter>) or by visiting the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203. For questions, call 214.818.1373 or email at tutoringcenter@criswell.edu.

Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignments
Week 1 8/24	Introduction Early Greek Philosophy	Sproul Intro. & Chapter 1	Quiz
Week 2 8/31	Pre-Socratics Socrates & Plato	WP Part IV Chapter 1 <i>Phaedo</i> Chapter 2 <i>De Anima</i>	Quiz
Week 3 9/7	Intro to Metaphysics	Sproul Ch. 2 WP Part II Chs. 1&2	Quiz

Week 4 9/14	Metaphysics The Nature of the World	Sproul Ch. 3 WP Part VIII Ch. 2 <i>N. Ethics</i>	Quiz
Week 5 9/21	Metaphysics Mind & Bodies Christian Platonism	Sproul Ch. 4 WP Part III Ch. 2	Quiz
Week 6 9/28	Christian Platonism Medieval Philosophy	Sproul Ch. 5 WP Part IV ch. 3; Part VI: Chs. 1-2 Part VII Ch. 3	Quiz
Week 7 10/5	Nominalism Intro to Epistemology	Sproul Ch. 6 WP Part I ch. 4; Part VII ch. 3	Quiz
Week 8 10/12	Epistemology	Sproul 7	Quiz Midterm
Week 9	Student Development Week.	Use this time to work on your essay.	
Week 10 10/26	Empiricism: Can we know? Skepticism	Sproul 8 WP Part I Chs. 5-7; Part VI ch. 8	Quiz
Week 11 11/2	Rational Empiricism Justified Beliefs	Sproul 9 WP Part I ch. 8; Part VII ch. 7	Quiz

Week 12 11/9	Talk about Essay Political Philosophy	Essay Assignment Collaboration ----- --- Sproul 10; WP Part 10 Chs. 5 & 9.	Students should come ready to discuss the work they have completed toward their essay.
Week 13 11/16	Existentialism Christian Existentialism	WP Pt. II Ch. 10; Pt. 5 Ch. 11; Pt. 11 Ch. 9 Sproul 11	Quiz
Week 14	Thanksgiving Break		
Week 15 11/30	Ethics	Sproul 12-13 WP Pt. 8 Chs. 1-2, 6-8	Quiz
Week 16 12/7	Philosophy of Religion Worldview	Sproul 14 WP Pt. XII Ch. 11	Quiz
Week 17 12/14	Final Exam		Essay Due ----- --- Final

Selected Bibliography

Ames, William. *The Marrow of Sacred Divinity [or, Marrow of Theology]: Drawn Out of the Holy Scriptures and the Interpreters of it and Brought into Method (1627)*. Edited by William Henry Gross. London, England, 2014.

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