

**Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 101 - Fall 2007 – T & WTH 9:35–10:50 – B16 - Blue Ridge CTC**

*Course Syllabus*

Instructor: Garrett W. Rice

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Text: Wolf, R. About Philosophy 9/e ISBN: 9780131916067

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**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the major fields, problems, theories, and personalities of philosophy through the biographies and writing of leading thinkers.

**Course Objectives:** This course provides an introduction into philosophy and the major fields, problems, theories, and personalities of philosophy through the biographies and writing of leading thinkers. After taking this course, the student will be able to demonstrate awareness of the following:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Philosophy of Science
- Ethical Theory
- The Ethical Dimensions of Medicine.
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Art
- Philosophy of Religion

**Course Evaluation:** The course evaluation will consist of a mid-term, final, 2 papers, presentation and *class participation*. Students will be evaluated and graded on the basis of the following:

**Course Evaluation:** The course evaluation will consist of:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Class Percent</u>
<i>Mid-term Exam</i> –Format TBA	<b>100</b>	<b>20%</b>
<i>Final Exam</i> – Format TBA	<b>100</b>	<b>20%</b>
<i>Class Papers</i> – (2X) 5-7 page papers	<b>(2X) 100</b>	<b>40%</b>
<i>Class Participation</i>	<b>50</b>	<b>10%</b>
<i>Presentation</i>	<b>50</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Program Assessment:** The faculty members of Blue Ridge CTC are dedicated to assuring that each student meets the educational objectives of the program. The educational objectives are developed and planned to assure that the program is producing graduates who will be successful in obtaining and maintaining positions in the entry-level business field and who will be quality employees. To achieve this goal, the faculty is committed to a systematic and comprehensive process of assessment of student learning. As part of this program assessment, students will from time to time be asked to participate in non-graded assessment activities which may include, but are not be limited to, participation in role-playing simulations and completion of standardized written or practical examinations or pre and post graduation surveys.

**Academic Integrity:** - Cheating in all its forms, including plagiarism and cheating on visual work, is considered an academic matter to be controlled and acted upon by the instructor of this course. Students guilty of academic dishonesty on any graded assignments in this course will be penalized with a grade of F in the course. Such action shall be taken by the instructor, with written notification to the Dean of Academic Instruction at Blue Ridge CTC. Students involved in facilitating academic dishonesty among others, such as the unauthorized dissemination of examination materials, will be subject to disciplinary action as well.

**Withdrawal from this course:** - The last day to withdraw from this course is Friday, November 9, 2007 by Noon. The withdraw process requires signatures from both the professor and the student's academic advisor.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes. The course lectures and presentations are designed to strengthen and support the concepts introduced in each chapter and, ultimately the objectives of the course. If a student is going to miss a class he/she should notify the instructor prior to the beginning of class. An optional assignment will be provided to insure the material was covered and to help the student's participation grade, at the discretion of the instructor.

**Prerequisites and co-requisites:** This course has no pre or co-requisites.

**Policy regarding late work and make up exams:** Unless prior arrangements were approved by the instructor NO make-up tests will be provided. Papers are to be delivered to the instructor by Noon on the proposed due date.

**Grading Policy:** This class is designed on a point system; final grade is calculated by dividing total points available by total points earned. A = 90% - 100%, B = 89% - 80%, C = 79% - 70%, D = 63% - 69%, F = Below 63%

**This syllabus may be altered at any time at the discretion of the instructor.**



<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Objectives</u>
8/21/2007	-	Introduction and Review of Syllabus and Companion Website
8/23/2007	1	<b>What Is Philosophy</b> - What Do Philosophers Do
8/28/2007	1	Rationality, Universality, Objectivity. /The Limitations of the Western Philosophical Tradition <b>Theory of Knowledge</b> - Descartes' Method of Doubt /Rationalism and Empiricism / Two
8/30/2007	2	Responses to Cartesian Doubt / Leibniz and Rationalism Hume and Empiricism / Kant's Resolution of the Rationalism/ Empiricism Debate / New Turns
9/4/2007	2	in Epistemology
9/6/2007	3	<b>Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind</b> - What Is Metaphysics? / Hobbes' Materialism
9/11/2007	3	Free Will and Determinism / The Mind and the Body <b>Philosophy of Science</b> - The Place of Science in the Modern World / Francis Bacon
9/14/2007	4	and the Foundations of Scientific Method
9/18/2007	4	The Relation Between Theory and Observation / Karl Popper and Falsifiability
9/21/2007	4	Thomas Kuhn's Theory of Scientific Revolutions /Science as a Social Institution
9/25/2007	4	Voices Beyond Popper & Kuhn
9/28/2007	5	<b>Ethical Theory.</b> The Varieties of Ethical Theory / Kant and the Commands of Duty Three Reasons to Think About Ethics / Ethical Disagreement and the Categorical
10/2/2007	5	Imperative Utilitarianism and the Calculation of Pleasures and Pains
10/4/2007	5	FIRST PAPER DUE
10/9/2007	-	Study Session (optional)class guided- <b><i>Instructor will not be present</i></b>
10/11/2007	-	Mid-term Exam
10/16/2007	5	Virtue Ethics /The Feminist Critique of Ethical Theory
10/18/2007	5	The Ethical Dimensions of Medicine / The Ethical Dimensions of Medical Decisions Withholding Food and Water / The Buying and Selling of Human Organs / What
10/23/2007	5	Should the Doctor Tell the Patient? <b>Social and Political Philosophy.</b> Mill and Classical Laissez-Faire Liberalism / The
10/25/2007	6	Socialist Attack on Capitalism
10/30/2007	6	Rousseau and the Theory of the Social Contract / The Pluralist Theory of the State.
11/1/2007	7	<b>Philosophy of Art.</b> Plato's Attack on the Poets. /Aristotle's Defense of the Poets.
11/06/2007	-	Class Presentations
11/13/2007	<b>8</b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion.</b> - Kierkegaard's Encounter with Faith.
11/15/2007	8	Can We Prove That God Exists? / William Paley: The Argument from Design
11/20/2007	-	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
11/22/2007	-	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
11/27/2007	8	St. Thomas Aquinas: The Cosmological Argument St. Anselm: The Ontological Argument. /The Problem of Evil.
11/29/2007	8	SECOND PAPER DUE
12/4/2007	-	Final Review session (optional) Instructor present
12/6/2007	-	<b>Final Exam - LAST DAY OF CLASS</b>