

Course Syllabus

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PHI 101-2

Introduction to Philosophy

UPDATED SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Course Prefix/Number: PHI 101-2

Semester: Fall 2020

Class Days/Times: Online asynchronous

Credit Hours: 3 cr. hrs. (3 pds: 3 lec)

Instructor Information

Name: Jared Call

E-mail: jcall@tocc.edu (<mailto:jcall@tocc.edu>)

Office location: N/A This course is online so I am not on campus.

Office hours: I am available to meet with you by phone or in a Zoom meeting; except in case of emergency I am available Monday through Friday. In case of emergency I will also meet you on a weekend day. You may initiate the request, or I might initiate it. We can schedule a virtual time to meet or a phone contact meeting via email.

Course Overview

The main idea to be communicated in this course is at once simple and profound: philosophy is a *way of life*, a *spiritual practice of seeing*. It is not one academic discipline among others. Philosophy is unique in the academy in that it is not really an academic discipline at all, not in its essence. Philosophy, as the great philosophers of the West have repeatedly taught us, is a moral, psychological, and spiritual *therapy* of learning to discern *appearance* from *reality*.

General Objectives of the Course

At the end of the course you will be asked to evaluate the course's success at meeting these objectives:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
- Developing skills in expressing oneself orally or in writing
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

This course has **two** main outcome goals. The first has to do with content. The task here is to understand the philosophical questions and to know what these philosophers have said and why they have said it, to evaluate whether or not they have good reasons for making their claims, and to ask about the significance of all of it for us.

The second main objective has to do with intellectual virtue ("critical thinking skills" in the shallow, contemporary vernacular). The goal is to improve your ability to reason. This includes understanding a difficult reading, reflecting and thinking clearly and rigorously on its truth and significance, and the ability to communicate your understanding and thoughts to others clearly and concisely.

It is the hope of the instructor that students leave the class with an understanding of the philosophical issues as well as with an enlarged sense of wonder and curiosity with respect to those issues. But it is also a hope that students leave the class having cultivated intellectual virtues such as wonder, intelligence, "attunement" (an ability to enter other minds to see what they have to offer), equanimity, studiousness, clarity, rigor, and reasonability.

Course Description

Our course will have four units. The first is focused on the **meaning of life**: is there a way to live that makes a human life meaningful? Are there facts about this, or does everyone decide for themselves? The second has to do with **ethics and social existence** - our obligations to others, and ways we can all best live together. The third explores **knowledge and consciousness** - who are we, and what can we know? The fourth is a set of questions about living with **technology** - specifically, how computers, automation, and robots affect jobs, knowledge, and friendships.

Student Learning Outcome

After completion of the course students will be able to: (1) Write a paper identifying three major ancient philosophies, the figures associated with them, and cultures in which they were developed. (2) Write a response essay about their onsite or virtual field trip experience. (3) Compare and articulate Tohono O'odham ethical considerations as described in the *Himdag* to ethical considerations found in Lakota or other Native American traditions.

Course Structure

This course is online asynchronous so we do not meet in person. And, except for periodic recorded lectures, and made available to you through a link to a Zoom recording, communication about the course will be done through postings on the course site, and via email. So be sure to check your TOCC email at least once a day.

Students will be examined based on their comprehension of the readings, participation and preparation for small group online discussions on particular topics, and application of themes / theory in their individual work for the course.

This is an online discussion-based class. Students are expected to fully engage in the critical analysis of the materials / reading online format through participation in the **Online Discussions**. Failure to participate in the online discussions will lead to failing the course.

1- Students are required to first post a response to a topic I will post each week.

2- Students will then read the posts of other students in the course and choose at least two posts to respond to, on two different days, in order to interact with other students, and to move the discussion forward. This is an opportunity to also ask others for their input to questions you may have, as we can all learn from each other.

3 - Links to a selection of videos will be posted for students to access online.

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

You will soon discover the difference between this kind of reading and the reading you are required to do for other courses. Philosophy is *not* information. One cannot learn it by rote. One can only understand a philosophical text by *philosophizing*. For this reason, we will keep the number of pages to be read in preparation for each class to a bare minimum, no more than can be read in a half hour to an hour and I will expect each of you to come to class ready to philosophize!

You will NEED to purchase three books:

- *Mortal Questions*, Thomas Nagel (Canto, 1991)
- *Justice*, Michael J. Sandel (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009)
- *Five Dialogues*, Plato (Hackett, 1981)

Other readings, will be made available on Canvas under "Files." Our readings are drawn from the trial and death of Plato, the greatest thinker of the ancient world, to contemporary philosophers grappling with the effects and meaning of revolutionizing technology.

Courses Outline and Important Date

August 24. Classes Begin

August 31	Discussion (1) – Introduce Yourself to Your Classmates
September 6	Discussion 1 DUE 11:59 PM
September 7.	Labor Day; College Closed;
September 8	Discussion 2 Question & Responses Assigned
September 13	Discussion 2 Question & Responses DUE
September 14	Discussion 3 Question & Responses Assigned
September 15	Drop/ Full Refund Deadline
September 20	Discussion 3 for Question & Responses DUE
September 21	First Paper Assigned (Oct 5.)
September 25	O’odham Tas; College Closed
September 28 -October 2	Fall Break; No Classes
October 2	St Francis Day – College Closed
October 5	Paper DUE
October 5	Discussion 4 Assigned
October 14	45 Day Census
October 11	Discussion 4 Question & Responses to Posts DUE
October 21	Progress Reports Due / Midterm Exam (Open Book) DUE
October 26	Paper Assigned
November 9	Withdrawal Deadline
November 11	Veteran’s Day; College Closed
November 13.	Student Progress Reports Due
November 15	Paper DUE
November 16	Discussion 5 Question & Response Assigned
November 22	Discussion 5 Question & Response DUE
November 26, 27	Thanksgiving Holiday; College Closed
December 11	Last Day of Instruction / Final Exam (Open Book) Due
December 15	Last Day of Class / Final Grades Due

December 25-January 1 Winter Break; **College Closed**

Evaluations and Grading & Assignments:

90 and above is an A

80 - 89 is a B

70 - 79 is a C

60 - 69 is a D

Under 60 is Failing

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Exams (2) Open Book; 80 pts. ea. Possible: 160 points

Paper (2); 70 pts. Ea. Possible: 140 points

Online Discussion (5); 20 pts. ea. 100 pts. possible.

360 and above is A,

287 – 359 B,

200 – 286 is a C,

120 – 199 is is a D 119 or less is F

Online Discussions: 5 Posts & Minimum of 2 Responses each to other students' posts; posting the responses at least 2 days apart. You may NOT make up discussions. I will not accept late discussion submissions – unless for extreme emergencies, of which I am the judge.

Papers (2)

Exams (2) (Open Book): Midterm; Final

Himdag Cultural Component

We will explore the way in which cultural issues are addressed in particular social and historical contexts. In particular we will examine the way in which the concepts of the **Himdag** of the Tohono

O'odham Nation is shared with those of other cultures in a given period. We will explore Tohono O'odham ethical considerations in relation to that of the Lakota Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy and Buddhist Philosophy.

1. Through the application of ***T-Wohocudadag*** we will compare and contrast the understanding and application of philosophical theories, broadly constructed, of Indigenous peoples from pre-contact to the present with that of the Tohono O'odham.
2. ***T-Apedag***: Reflecting on the culture and well-being of others, particularly in the area of physical and spiritual health and healing practices, provides us an additional way to reflect on our own historical place and healing practices.
3. Studying other beliefs, such as the Lakota, and Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism, leads to a deeper understanding and respect for all including ourselves: ***T-Pi:K Elida***.
4. Working with other classmates through the **Online Discussions** provides the opportunity to share skills with each other. The way Native peoples share with each other, is reflected by the way in which core issues are discussed and shared between and among various groups;

I-We:mta

Policies and Expectations

-Attendance Policy

You are expected participate in your **Online Discussions**. Four unexcused absences may result in withdrawal and a "W" or "Y" will be recorded. You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible (approved by Faculty Senate April 2014).

-Incomplete Policy

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

-Instructor Withdrawals

Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent) not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on [date of 45th day found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion. [faculty members should be clear in their withdraw policy, if you do not withdraw students please note in appropriate sections].

-Student Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by November 9, 2020, if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" grade.

-Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations

Tohono O'odham Community College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO). It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact: Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and

assistance.

Title IX

Tohono O'odham Community College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services Title IX Coordinator/Counselor, Alberta Espinoza, M.Ed. located in I-We:mta Ki: Room 18. Phone 520-383-0033 email: aespinoza@tocc.edu

Conduct / Netiquette: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

- Class participation and preparation are essential to student success. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, complete required research as stated on the course schedule.
- Failure to submit a project results in a grade of zero (0). An F is a better grade!
- No work accepted after the last class

Virtual Classroom/Online Behavior: See Conduct Guidelines Above

- Students engaged in online behaviors that interfere with the learning of others will be asked to leave.
- Student behavior is also detailed in student handbook under Student Code of Conduct Violations

Make-up policy:

Late assignments that can be made up will be accepted but will be penalized 25%.

At the instructor's discretion, extra credit opportunities and optional activities may be provided.

Academic Integrity:














Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Tohono O'odham Community College, the Student Services Department, and by your instructor. Students may consult the TOCC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, on scholastic ethics and on the grade appeal procedure. Copies are available at Tohono O'odham Community College.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must clearly be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited. Copying from a book without proper reference or from a person under any circumstances will result in an "F" for the assignment, and at the instructor's discretion, possibly an "F" for the course. If you are uncertain about proper citations ask your instructor or the librarian.

Course Feedback:

All assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week after the assignment is closed for handing in. E-mail and phone messages will be returned within two days. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Aug 30, 2020	 TRIAL DISCUSSION: How to Think Like a Philosopher (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/19649)	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion 1 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20096)	
	 Final Exam (Open Book) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20095)	
	 Midterm Exam (Open Book) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20093)	
	 MIDTERM What to Study (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/21789)	
	 Paper 1 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20091)	
	 Paper 1 DUE (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20092)	
	 Participation (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20100)	
	 Reading 8 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/21786)	
	 READING 9 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/21787)	
	 READINGS (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20098)	
	 READINGS (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/20099)	
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2106/assignments/19021)	