

# Syllabus: PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy

**Course Information** 

Course Prefix/Number: PHI 101 Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Fall 2019 Course Title: Introduction to

Class Days/Times: Monday Philosophy

3pm – 5:30 pm Room: GSK 1

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Sharon Parker

Phone (Cell): 520 282 1670

E-mail: sparker@tocc.edu

Office location: We will meet where we can

find a room or in the classroom

Office hours: Before or after class or by

arrangement.

**Course Description:** Survey of the practices of philosophical analysis using contemporary debates to illustrate core issues. Philosophical issues may include: explanation/proof, analysis/critique, ethics/morality, aesthetics/equilibrium, identity/otherness, society/governance, religion/science, epistemology/ontology, thought/language, and consciousness/habit.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Compare social / political philosophies.
- 2. Examine issues concerning philosophy of religion.
- 3. Distinguish metaphysical systems.

#### Course Structure:

This is a discussion-based class; Students are expected to attend class meetings prepared to engage in critical analysis of the materials / reading in class discussions.

The course sessions will consist of lectures and discussion of readings, images, and videos, so of which will be exhibited on line. Students will be examined based on their comprehension the readings, participation and preparation for small group discussions on particular topics, a application of themes / theory in their projects.

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**Texts and Materials:** Chang, Janie, *Three Souls*. New York: Harper Collins (2013); Excerpts from Marshall, Joseph M. III. *The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons For Living; Native American Wisdom on Ethics and Character*. New York: Penguin (2001) on Reserve in the Library; Power, Susan. *The Grass Dancer*. New York: Penguin (1994). Excerpts from: DeLoria Jr., Vine, *The World We Used to Live In*, Golden, Co. Fulcrum Publishing (2006). *Liu*, JeeLoo. *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy From Ancient Philosophy to Chinese Buddhism*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing (2011). St. Pierre, Mark and Tilda Long Soldier. *Walking in the Sacred Manner*. New York: Simon and Schuster (1995).

# **Evaluation 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:

4 Quizzes (100 pts ea) based on information from each of the textbooks. 400 points and from a selection of the additional readings.

Pop Quizzes covering terms and concepts from a selection of readings

and class discussions (total of 50 points possible)

Preliminary Annotated bibliography and Presentation Proposal

1 Individual Presentation on a topic from the course readings

2 Response Papers 3 1/2 to 4 pages each; 100 points each

100 points

100 points

200 points

(MLA Style; 12 font; double space)

Attendance and Participation

(including being present for other student's presentations)

100 points

## 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 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:

Preparation for Class Discussion: Students must read the material and access any videos prior to the class in which they will be discussed.

Email: Students must check their TOCC email daily as this is the way I will contact you. Cell Phone: No cell phone use is allowed during class.

## **Academic Integrity / Plagiarism:**

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.

#### Attendance Policy

You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. 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.

# **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 in compliance with the attendance policy.
- 2. There must be an 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.

## **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 [withdrawal deadline date found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" grade.

## Special Withdrawal (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

## Reasonable Disability Accommodations (Americans with Disabilities Act):

TOCC seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to provide an equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to make known to the instructor his or her specific needs in order to determine reasonable accommodations. We will work together in order to

develop an Accommodation Plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

#### Title IX

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and all staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex- this includes sexual misconduct; harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence and sexual assault.

Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced 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

**Course Outline: Important Dates** 

August 19. Classes Begin

September 2 Labor Day; College Closed
September 3 Drop/ Full Refund Deadline
September 30-October 3 O'odham Tas; College Closed

September 30-October 3 Fall Break; **No Classes** 

October 3 45 Day Census
November 4 Withdrawal Deadline

November 11 Veteran's Day; College Closed

November 28, 29 Thanksgiving Holiday; College Closed

December 9-13 Last Week of Classes
December 17 Final Grades Due

December 25-January 1 Winter Break; College Closed

We will focus on metaphysics, politics, history, and ethics as viewed through the narrative lens of novels and philosophical texts and essays that illuminate issues pertinent to Native American and Asian cultures. This includes, but is not limited to, issues of honor, familial obligations, ethics, and character.

- 1. Course Overview
- 2. Native American Philosophies: Excerpts from *The Lakota Way: Stories and Lessons for Living* and other readings. *The Grass Dancer*. Quiz 1
- 3. China Cultural, Historical and Political Documentaries; Quiz 2
- 4. Three Souls: Quiz 3
- 5. Chinese Philosophies: Confucius, Dao, Buddhism, Zen; Quiz 4

#### **Preliminary Reading Schedule**

Not all the books are in the Bookstore. If you are unable to buy *Grass Dancer or The Lakota Way* please contact me asap.

We will begin with reading the *Grass Dancer* and also some other materials and information I will send to you via email. I will send out the full reading schedule after checking with the bookstore on the status of the books for the course.

Thank you for your patience. Dr. Parker

**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.

## **Course Policies:**

1) Students are expected to attend each class., arriving on time, except in the case of an excused emergency.

#### Classroom Behavior

- Visitors may be only allowed at class sessions or on field trips with instructor approval, visitor's safety and behavior are the responsibly of the student.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at discretion of the instructor.
- Cellphones should be turned off during class, unless there is a compelling reason such as emergency contact may be necessary. In this case cell phones should be mute.
- Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or 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%. Laboratories cannot be made up except in the case of college closure. At the instructor's discretion, extra credit opportunities and optional activities may be provided.

## **Academic Integrity:**

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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.