

OTC SYLLABUS
PHIL 2113 Lecture 01 & 02- INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Fall, 2008

- **INSTRUCTOR - David M Turner**
- **TIMES AND ROOM: Lecture/01 M, W 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, Room 110; Lecture/02 T,R 2:00 -3:15 PM, Room 110**
- **PHONE: (501) 767-8581 (after 6:30 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m.)**
- **E-MAIL: dturner@mail.otcweb.edu**
- **WEBSITE: www.philosophycorner.us (contains syllabus, class handouts and links for additional study)**

PREREQUISITES – None, suggest Composition I

REQUIRED TEXT: Wolff, Robert Paul., *About Philosophy* 10th Ed. Prentice Hall 2009 ISBN: 13 978-0-205-64518-3.
Important note: blue in color and includes a CD.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will provide an introduction to both the methodologies and personalities of the history of Western Philosophy. We will examine and summarize some of the basic philosophical theories of knowledge, metaphysics, science, ethics, social/politics, art, and religion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop the student's reasoning skills
2. To introduce students to major philosophical theories
3. To provide tools in reasoning for evaluating arguments

COURSE GOALS:

1. Students will be able to understand, analyze and evaluate the philosophical arguments presented.
2. Students will begin the process of developing and communicating their personal philosophical beliefs.
3. Students will learn to respectfully interact with a diversity of philosophical theories and traditions.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:

Students enrolling in a college need to prepare themselves to be well-informed and responsible citizens for a complex and culturally diverse world. It is the intent of NPCC to provide general education that will enhance common knowledge, intellectual concepts, and attitudes that every educated person should possess regardless of their career paths. The College will ensure that the General Education offered is consistent with its mission and designed to ensure breadth of knowledge and to promote intellectual inquiry. The College also recognizes the importance of General Education related studies as integral component of technical education.

The College will strive through General Education to lead the student to:

- Write and speak clearly, concisely, and coherently.
- Reason and think logically and clearly (and critically).
- Understand world culture, past and present.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

A variety of pedagogical methods will be employed, dependent upon the nature of the topic studied. However, because of the character of philosophy expect the class to rely predominately on short lectures with extended class discussions. Lectures and discussions will be based in the theoretical and practical arguments presented in the text and teacher handouts. It is imperative that students complete all the assigned readings **BEFORE** the day that they are discussed. The nature of philosophy is to bring into the open volatile issues. Students will be expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy to other's views without making personal or derogatory comments. Understanding the issues takes precedence over deciding on a position on the issues. All written work, must be typed, double-spaced, and without spelling or grammar errors.

AVAILABILITY OF INSTRUCTOR:

Feel free to openly discuss with me any concerns you may have. As an adjunct I'm seldom on campus except for classes or by appointment. To discuss your needs or to make an appointment call me at 767-8581 (after 6:30 AM or before 10:00 PM) or e-mail (my preference) me at dturner@mail.otcweb.edu.

GRADES:

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following point scheme:

Philosophical Journal	30%
*Chapter exams (1,2; 3,8; 4,5; 6,7; Final exam [10% each])	40%
Paper: Philosophy and the Movies	20%
*Class Attendance and participation	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will be based on the percentage of points received. Grades can be challenged *in a written argument* (no e-mail) within 1 class day of when returned, but there are no guarantees that challenged grades will improve.

GRADE SCALE A: ≥ 90% B: 89.9% - 80% C: 79.9% - 70% D: 69.9% - 60% F: ≤ 60%

Tests can be made up for legitimate emergency or medical excuses only. Paper must be handed in by the assigned due date.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory. 10% of the total grade is based on class participation (implies presence). Each unexcused class (one day = two classes) will result in a 2 % deduction from the total grade up to 10 %. Additional absences will result in additional deductions or a request for the student to drop the class. Excessive absences can result in a failing grade regardless of the overall GPA of the class. Do not be late to class. If you are late, enter quietly and please don't participate in a discussion until you have a complete comprehension of its context.

COURSE WORK:

Philosophy Journal (30%). As you read/study the chapters and participate in class discussions many issues and questions will arise. Write in your Philosophy journal the issues and questions that are most relevant to you in each chapter and/or discussion. Discuss these in the journal. These can be in the form of reflections, meditations, logical inquiry or further study or personal, imaginary conversations with the Philosophers. Mark each section in the journal by Chapter. Grammar and handwriting will not be graded. You are also permitted to cut and past class overheads and internet information into the journal. Grades will be based on how much reflection and time you put into it. You'll need 90+ for an A, 80-89 pages for a B, 70-79 for a C, 50-69 for a D. Bring your journal to class on the day of our last test. While you take your test I'll grade the journal.

Paper: Philosophy and the Movies (20%). Students will write a 2 ½ to 3 page paper evaluating the philosophical content of a movie selected by the instructor. See supplemental pages.

***Exams (40%).** There will five tests, four chapter tests (2 chapters per test) and a Final Exam. These tests must be taken on the date assigned. The final will replace a missed test or give the student a chance to replace the grade of one of the chapter tests. Students satisfied with their grade going into the final are not required to take it which means the final is optional for all students. It cannot lower the student's grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Do not plagiarize. Your work should be your work. Give credit to those who deserve it. Become familiar with page 42 of the NPCC 2003-05 Catalog on Academic Honesty.

FOR STUDENTS WITH SPEACIAL NEEDS AND/OR DISBILITIES

It is my policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, accommodations to those who have disabilities, or special needs (caring for elderly parents or having children are examples) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities or special needs are encouraged to contact me during the first week of classes if they think such disabilities or needs could interfere with their coursework.

CLASS SCHEDULE: MWF (may be subject to change)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>
Aug. 18/19 M,T	Introduction	None
Aug. 20/21 W,R	What Is Philosophy (chapter 1)	1-16
	Philosophical Ideals	16-22
Aug. 25/26 M,T	Philosophical Ideals	22-43
	Philosophy of Knowledge (Rationalism)	46-69 (chap. 2)

Dates	Subject	Reading Due
Aug. 27/28 W,R	Philosophy of Knowledge (Empiricism)	69-79
Sept. 1M	Labor Day	
Sept. 2/3 T,W	Philosophy of Knowledge (synthesis)	79-82
	Philosophy of Knowledge	82-97
Sept. 4/8 R,M	EXAM on Chapters 1&2	
	Metaphysics (Definitions, Ultimate Reality)	Class Notes
Sept. 9/10 T,W	Metaphysics (Hobbs/Materialism)	98-108 (chap. 3)
Sept. 11,15 R,M	Metaphysics (Determinism)	108-115
Sept. 16/17 T,W	Metaphysics (Mental/physical link)	115-126
	Metaphysics, Review Questions (ch.3)	127-139
Sept. 18/22 R,M	Philosophy of Religion (World views)	Class handouts (chap. 8)
	Philosophy of Religion (Arguments for Theism)	419-439, class handouts
Sept. 23/24 T,W	Philosophy of Religion (Anselm, problem of evil)	439-445
Sept. 25/29 R,M	Philosophy of Religion (Existentialism)	404-419
	Philosophy of Religion	450-457
Sept 30/Oct 1 T,W	Issues in Religion	
Oct. 2/6 R,M	EXAM on Chapters 3&8	
	Philosophy of Science	140-151 (chap. 4)
Oct. 7/8 T,W	Philosophy of Science (Popper & Kuhn)	151-167
Oct. 9/13 R,M	Philosophy of Science	167-174
	Philosophy of Science	177-189
Oct. 14/15 T,W	Issues between Science and Religion	
Oct. 16/20 R,M	Ethics (Kant, Categorical Imperatives)	190-206, (chap. 5)
Oct. 21/22 T,W	Ethics (Utilitarian)	207-217
	Ethics (Virtue Ethics)	217-225
Oct. 23/27 R,M	Ethics (Feminist Critique)	225-243
	Ethics (Same-Sex Marriage)	245-255
Oct. 28/29 T,W	Ethics (Medical Ethics)	256-261
Oct 30/Nov 3 R,M	Ethics	261-266
	Ethics, Review for exam Paper Due	266-287
Nov 4/5 T,W	Exam: Chapters 4&5	
Nov. 6/10 R,M	Social & Political Phil. (Capitalism, Utilitarian)	288-302 (chap. 6)
	Social & Political Phil. (Socialism)	303-312
Nov. 11/12 T,W	Social & Political Phil, (Social Contract)	312-328
Nov. 13/17 R,M	Social & Political Phil. (Pluralistic Theory)	328-339
Nov. 18-19		
Nov. 20/24 R,M	Social & Political Phil. (Affirmative Action)	242-355
	Philosophy of Art (Plato)	Review Questions (ch.6)
		357-368 (chap. 7)
Nov. 25-28	Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 1,2 M,T	Philosophy of Art (Aristotle)	368-374
	Philosophy of Art (Marcuse & Danto)	374-389
Dec. 3,4 W,R	EXAM on Chapter 6&7	

FINAL EXAM

TBA in Class. Will follow the campus schedule

FOOTNOTE: This syllabus is a guideline and is subject to change at the author's discretion. All interpretations will be finalized on the principle of "author's intent". Since your teacher is the author, he knows the intent and his interpretation is final.