

Montgomery College-Rockville Campus  
Department of World Languages and Philosophy  
*PHIL101-31821 Introduction to Philosophy*

<p><b><i>Instructor Information</i></b></p> <p>Prof. Chris Collins</p> <p><b>Phone-</b>(240) 567-7427</p> <p><b>Email:</b> Do not use Blackboard email! Use <a href="mailto:christopher.collins@montgomerycollege.edu">christopher.collins@montgomerycollege.edu</a></p> <p><b>Office-</b>MT 405</p> <p>Office-MT 405 Office Hours- Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15 Tuesday 4:00-5:30 Sunday (Virtual) 7:00-9:00PM</p> <p><i>office Hours are available by appointment as well</i></p>	<p><b><i>Classes</i></b></p> <p>Phil140 DL-Web</p> <p>Phil140 DL-Web</p> <p>Phil 101 T 6:30-9:25 HUM 207</p> <p>Phil 101 TR 2:00-3:30 HUM 103</p> <p>Phil 201 TR 12:30-1:55 SB 210</p>
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**WHAT IS THIS CLASS ABOUT**

Introduction to philosophical analysis of the problem of knowledge, the problem of reality, and the problem of the good. Major philosophical attitudes of Western civilization are introduced. Special attention is paid to some of the philosophical implications of contemporary natural and social science. The basic themes of the course are that the major questions philosophy deals with are present in the lives of all persons; that we must clarify the questions, if possible, before we try to answer them; and that the basic questions are always concerned with the nature and meaning of human existence.

**PREREQUISITE(S):** *Second-year standing or consent of department. Assessment Level(s):* [ENGL 101/ENGL 101A](#), [MATH 093/MATH 096](#), [READ 120](#). *Three hours each week. Formerly PL 201.*

*3 semester hours*

Course Outcomes:

Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Describe humankind's perennial issues and questions in a thematic way: what is real, true, and good.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic questions in metaphysics such as questions of "God," personal identity, and being in the world.

- Identify historical and current interpretations of truth and knowledge.
- Analyze ethical concepts such as what is good and what is right in a multicultural society.
- Distinguish between aesthetic and non-aesthetic experiences.
- Critically evaluate different schools of philosophical thinking.
- Identify and critically examine metaphysical or epistemological assumptions of a representative philosopher.

### **Required Textbooks:**

For this class we will be using an Open Educational Resource (OER) All, the readings will be online and are available on you internet capable devices. The link to the OER is below:

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO\\_TEXT/CONTENTS.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/CONTENTS.htm)

### **\*\*our classroom\*\***

Philosophy is, in part, a social process. Philosophy's development and continuation depends upon fostering a free and open exchange among individuals. In this spirit, respect for the ideas of others is the **Golden Rule**. Speaking and reading in public requires fortitude and courage, so when a fellow student displays those qualities by sharing his/her work with us, our respect and admiration must be given to them at all times. At times, the process of philosophy is an expression of our individual identities and personal beliefs, these qualities should never be taken lightly. The bottom line, always remember and employ the **Golden Rule**.

### **\*\*expectations and grades\*\***

All students are expected to complete all of the assignments required for this course. Failure to complete all assignments can be considered wasted opportunities. These assignments are merely opportunities for you to showcase your individual abilities as a scholar and lover of wisdom. **Make certain you take advantage of all of these opportunities!** 20% of your course grade will be dependent upon these assignments. The weekly assignments will be one of three opportunities: a written response essay which will entail you critically analyzing a philosophical work and or idea. A comprehensive mid-term and final examination will comprise 40% of your final grade.

Class participation is an integral part of the philosophy classroom. Participation is necessary for successfully completing this course. If an individual chooses not to participate he/she will be wasting all of the resources that surround that person i.e. peers and instructor. Participation comprises 20% of your class grade. Your participation grade is calculated based on your responses to the discussion board. It is mandatory that you post at least two thoughtful representations of your work on the message board to each discussion question or topic during the week the discussion question is posted. The grading structure for those assignments is listed

under “Grading of Informal Work”. The grading scale is simple in that you will receive an “A” or an “F” for your responses

### **Other Expectations:**

In order to complete this course successfully you will be required to complete a great deal of reading. I recommend that you set aside time each day simply for this purpose. Please remember to read carefully and use a highlighter or whichever note taking tool you prefer while completing the assignment.

### **Grade Break Down**

Participation	20%
Weekly Assignments	20%
Final Written Report	20%
Mid-Term and Final Examination	40%

### **Grade Scale:**

**A=90-100**

**B=80-89**

**C=70-79**

**D=60-69**

**F-<60**

### **\*\*Submission of Work\*\***

-All work that is going to be turned into me should be type written(double spaced, nothing larger than a 12point font) Remember any work that you turn in is a representation of you as a lover of wisdom so it should be representative of that love. Most assignments should be sent to the assignment drop box on WebCT, unless otherwise specified.

-Failure to turn in work on time will result in one letter grade drop for every day late.

### **\*\*Grading of Formal Written Work\*\***

**An "A" paper** is substantial, well developed and effectively organized and presented. It demonstrates original or thoughtful engagement with content and sensitivity to diction, tone and style. Its sentences are clear, precise, and well-structured. The paper is appropriately and formatted and virtually error-free.

**A "B" paper** contains a number of the strengths of an A paper, but it typically lacks the thoughtfulness, originality, and sensitivity of the superior paper. It is also virtually error-free.

**A "C" paper** fulfills the assignment and is adequately organized. The writer communicates ideas and develops thesis, although supporting evidence may be minimal and organization rather mechanical. The writing is not marred by habitual or serious grammatical errors. Thought and expression are competent.

**A "D" paper** typically is marked by failure to focus on a thesis, poor organization, lack of development, or recurrent mechanical errors.

A "F" paper may ignore the terms of the assignment, or it may be devoid of thesis, support, or organizing principle. Typically it contains numerous mechanical errors that seriously interfere with comprehension; it may also be marred by serious errors in documentation.

**\*\*Grading of informal Work\*\* (I Consider informal work to be the message board responses and or short answer questions) Let your work reflect you as a thinker.**

A "A" response is one that is earnest, thoughtful and representative of college level work. While I understand that the message board responses do not require the formality of an analytic essay I do expect your work to be well thought out and relatively free from major grammatical and spelling errors.

A "F" response is one that does not represent you as a thinker nor a lover of wisdom. An example of such a response is:

*That is stupid*  
*You're an idiot*  
*This chapter is dumb*

Those types of comments only undermine our joint effort to love wisdom and share in a healthy class environment.

#### **Attendance Policy**

**Two absences are permitted after that you may be dropped for the course or loose the 20Percent participation grade**

[ **Phil 101** ] satisfies a **General Education Humanities Distribution requirement**. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and their personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop competency in *Written and oral communication* and *Critical analysis and reasoning*. For more information on the General Education Program, go to [www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened).

**Classroom Conditions:** Students and faculty are expected to leave the classroom in good condition, disposing of all litter and straightening desks and chairs.

**Inclement Weather or Campus Emergencies:** Official announcements regarding closings or delays will be made on local radio and television. For a recorded announcement about Montgomery College, call (301) 279-5000. You may also subscribe to email or text alerts through Montgomery County MC Alert. Registration information is available at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency). If the College opens or closes a time when more than 50% of a class period will be missed, the class is cancelled. Announcements regarding Montgomery County Public Schools do not apply to Montgomery College.

**Disability and Other Special Concerns:** Any student needing accommodation due to a disability should see the professor during office hours. A letter from Disability Support Services (CB 122) authorizing accommodations will be needed. Any student needing assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must contact DSS; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm). If there are other circumstances that may impact your ability to succeed in the course, it is your responsibility to notify the professor in a timely manner.

**Audit Policy:** All students registered for audit are required to consult with the instructor before or during the first class. Students are required to participate in all course activities unless otherwise agreed upon by the student and instructor at the time of consultation. Failure to consult with the instructor or to so participate may result in the grade of “W” being awarded. This action may be taken by the instructor by changing the “AU” to “W” before the drop with “W” date.

**Veterans and Service Members:** If you are a veteran or on active or reserve status and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College website at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college) and/or contact Joanna Starling at 240-567-7103 or [Joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu).

**FERPA.** The *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* prohibits the instructor from discussing a student’s grade and performance in the course with anyone but that student. All exceptions/allowances must be submitted in writing by the student.

**\*\*Academic Integrity\*\***

As students participating in higher level learning, plagiarism, cheating and any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this learning environment. When an individual participates in any type of academic dishonesty she/he is simply expressing his/her lack of belief in her/his own abilities to excel in the pursuit of knowledge. In this course, plagiarism is the most severe offense. If you are not certain what qualifies as plagiarism, please discuss your questions with me, so that any problems can be avoided. If you have any further questions regarding academic dishonesty please refer to the Student Handbook.

**\*\*Inclement Weather\*\***

Occasionally it becomes necessary to delay the opening of school, send students home early, or close the College entirely because of bad weather. Please check the college Website for any closings or delays.

## **Important Links for Students**

(Updated April 2, 2015)

**Academic calendar.** When is Spring break? When are midterm exams? When does the Spring semester begin? <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments.aspx?id=16456>

**ADA Information and Compliance:**

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department.aspx?id=53990>

**Alert Montgomery System.** Sign up for Alert Montgomery the official emergency communications service for Montgomery County, MD. During a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event, Montgomery County officials can send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to you on any of your devices.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832009#/login>

**Code of Conduct.** If you have questions regarding behavioral expectations:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/WorkArea/DAsset.aspx?id=35945>

**Counseling & Advising.** Academic advising and short term counseling.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary1.aspx?urlid=4>

**Disability Support Services.** If you are requesting a reasonable accommodation related to a disability:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52>

**Forms:** graduation, involuntary withdraw, change of major, appeals.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/departments.aspx?id=10072>

**Learning Centers and Academic Support Centers.** If you are a student who would benefit from tutoring and/or support in reading, writing languages, mathematics, Science, and Technology:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/learningcenters/>

**Safety, Security, & Emergency Operations Plan.** Contacts for security offices, Emergency guidelines & procedures, evacuations, Montgomery College Alert, Emergency Guidelines for Individuals with Disabilities, <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/plain2.aspx?id=4087>

**Sexual Harassment or Discrimination.** Office of Equity and Diversity.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/Department2.aspx?id=65693>

Compiled by Jay Marciano, Faculty Council & TP/SS Faculty Senate Chair, April 2, 2015

Homework schedule- Homework is due on the last day of each week. This semester we are using an Open Educational Resource(free book) as our text. The text has links upon links that bring you to outside reading, when a reading assignment is posted you are not responsible for reading all the links, I am primarily concerned with you just reading the text but please feel free to read any of the links in the book.

Week 1-Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 in the Text.

Week 2- Complete questions at the end of chapter 2

Week 3-Complete questions at the end of chapter 3

Week 4-Complete questions at the end of chapter 4

Week 5-Complete questions at the end of chapter 5

Week 6-Study questions, see learning module for further details

Week 7 Complete review for the Mid-term

Week 8 TBD

Week 9 Complete questions at the end of the chapter on Ethics

Week 10 Complete all extra discussion questions

Week 11 Start working on Final Paper-see assignment section

Week 12 Complete questions at the end of chapter 8

Week 13 Review Fallacy questions

Week 14 Complete Final review

Week 15 Final Exam

All homework is subject to change-Make certain you always check the end of the weekly learning module before beginning an assignment.