

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PHIL 120A)**

**TIME: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 7:30-8:40 AM**

**LINC CATEGORY: M3 (ULTIMATE QUESTIONS)**

**OTHER CATEGORY: II.C.2 (HUMANITIES)**

**INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI**

**CONTENT:**

The course explores the tasks and subject matters of philosophy, including major theories of reality, knowledge, religion, morality and social justice. Attention will be given to several classic philosophical texts as primary source readings.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. to think critically on issues they encounter in daily life;
2. to discuss major philosophical issues in scholastic tradition;
3. to reflect the views of major philosophers in their daily life;
4. to discuss major thought of philosophers on reality, knowledge, ethics, and politics.

**GRADING FORMAT:**

1. Participation (20%);
2. Two popup quizzes (20%);
3. Two structured papers (3-5 pages; 20%)
4. Research paper (7-10 pages; total of 25%): research proposal (5%) and first draft (5%) of the paper are required prior to final submission (15%);
5. Final exam (15%);
6. A 5% will be added to the total for those who have a complete attendance;

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook: 2004-2005*, pp. 52-8.

**PARTICIPATION:**

Students' participation is highly valued. Active participation includes any input that enables the achievement of the course objectives. It includes—but not limited to—making comments about the reading, asking questions about the reading or the themes under discussion, answering questions posed by the instructor or the class, and suggesting alternative views on the issues in class discussion. Attending a lecture(s) on philosophy, whenever applicable, can be counted toward increasing the participation grade. Complete attendance without any form of participation indicated above will give students a participation grade of no more than D.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5% will be awarded to those who have a complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without penalty. Those who miss more than four classes will be downgraded by one point of the total grade for each missed meeting after the four absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and submit a written report on the reading for that specific day as a substitute.

**PAPER SUBMISSIONS:**

All papers—including (1) structured papers, (2) research proposal, (3) draft of research paper and (6) final research paper—should be electronically submitted through Blackboard on or before the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submissions, the printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor’s office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day.

Students are encouraged to rewrite the structured papers. Final research papers cannot be rewritten. The rewritten papers are due within a week after the papers are electronically distributed. Since the grades of the rewritten papers can be better or worse than the originally submitted paper, the best grade will be counted toward the final.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Office: Zinzendorf 201  
Phone: (610) 861-1628  
E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu  
Classroom: Comenius 201  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM; or by appointment.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE AT MORAVIAN BOOKSTORE:**

Harris, Sam. *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the End of Reason*. New York; London: W.W. Norton and Company, 2005.  
Wolff, Robert Paul. *About Philosophy*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2006.

**SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS AVAILABLE AT REEVES’ LIBRARY RESERVE:**

Heidegger. *Being and Time*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1962. Pp. 49-63.  
Morewedge, Parviz. *The Metaphysica of Avicenna (ibn Si>na>): A Critical Translation-Commentary and Analysis of the Fundamental Arguments in Avicenna’s Metaphysica in the Da>nish Na>ma-i> ‘Ala>’i> (The Book of Scientific Knowledge)*. London: Routledge, 1973. Pp. 47-57.  
Plato. *Republic*. In Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns, eds. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato: Including Letters*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002.

**SCHEDULE:**

|    | Date  | Topic and Reading  | Due Date |
|----|-------|--|----------|
| 1. | 01/16 | Introduction: Syllabus   |          |
| 2. | 01/18 | What is Philosophy? 1<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 3-22.] |          |
| 3. | 01/23 | What is Philosophy? 2  |          |

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|-----|---------|--|-------------------------|
|     |         | [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 22-43.]   |                         |
| 4.  | 01/25   | Epistemology 1: Levels of Truth<br>[Reading: Plato, <i>Republic</i> , 747-72.]                               |                         |
| 5.  | 01/30   | Epistemology 2: Cartesian System<br>[Reading: Plato, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 46-61.]                       | Structured paper 1      |
| 6.  | 02/01   | Epistemology 3: Rationalism versus Empiricism<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 61-79.]          |                         |
| 7.  | 02/06   | Epistemology 4: Kantian Synthesis and beyond<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 79-88.]           |                         |
| 8.  | 02/08   | Metaphysics 1: What is Metaphysics?<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 98-115.]                   |                         |
| 9.  | 02/13   | Metaphysics 2: The Structure of Being<br>[Reading: Avicenna, <i>The Metaphysica of Avicenna</i> , 47-57.]    | Research proposal       |
| 10. | 02/15   | Metaphysics 3: Mind-Body Distinction<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 115-28.]                  |                         |
| 11. | 02/20   | Metaphysics 4: Phenomenology<br>[Reading: Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> , 49-63.]                         |                         |
| 12. | 02/22   | Video 1: The Trial of Socrates   |                         |
|     | 02/24   | <b>Mid-Term</b>  |                         |
| 13. | 02/27   | Philosophy of Science 1<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 140-61.]                               |                         |
| 14. | 03/01   | Philosophy of Science 2<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 161-74.]                               |                         |
|     | 03/4-12 | <b>Spring Break</b>  |                         |
| 15. | 03/13   | Ethics 1: Ethical Theories<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 190-225.]                           |                         |
| 16. | 03/15   | Ethics 2: Feminist Critique and Practical Application<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 225-55.] | Draft of research paper |
| 17. | 03/20   | Ethics 3: Medical Ethics<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 256-76.]                              |                         |
| 18. | 03/22   | Social and Political Philosophy 1<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 288-307.]                    |                         |
| 19. | 03/27   | Social and Political Philosophy 2<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 308-37.]                     |                         |
| 20. | 03/29   | Video 2: Fahrenheit 9/11   |                         |
| 21. | 04/03   | Philosophy of Art 1<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 356-80.]                                   | Structured paper 2      |
|     | 04/04   | <b>Service Day—No classes</b>  |                         |
| 22. | 04/05   | Philosophy of Art 2<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 380-88 and 391-403.]                       |                         |
| 23. | 04/10   | Philosophy of Religion 1: Reason Versus Revelation<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 404-19.]    |                         |
| 24. | 04/12   | Philosophy of Religion 2: Proofs of God's Existence<br>[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 420-45.]   |                         |
|     | 04/17   | <b>Easter Recess</b>   |                         |

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| 25. | 04/19  | Philosophy of Religion 3: Philosophy or Religion? 1<br>[Reading: Harris, <i>The End of Faith</i> , 11-107]                        | Research paper |
| 26. | 04/24  | Philosophy of Religion 4: Philosophy or Religion? 2<br>[Reading: Harris, <i>The End of Faith</i> , 108-69]                        |                |
| 27. | 04/26  | Philosophy of Religion 5: Philosophy or Religion? 3<br>[Reading: Harris, <i>The End of Faith</i> , 170-237]<br>Concluding Remarks |                |
|     | 05/1-6 | <b>Final Exams</b>  |                |