

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 03

MARC NICHOLAS

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

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Course Description:

A study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite information here from MCC Course Catalog

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Insert and course notes or recommendations

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Dr. Marc Nicholas
MCC E-mail: mnicholas@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8959
Office Location: MAC 316
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MW, 1:00-3:00
Other Instruction Information: none

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Introduction to Philosophy*
Author: William Lawhead Edition: Publisher: Cengage
ISBN-13: 978-1-337-04947-4
ISBN-10: 1-337-04947-6

Note well: This is an abbreviated version of Lawhead's *The Voyage of Discovery*. I have chosen this version in order to reduce student costs. If you purchase the regular version of the book, the page numbers will not be the same for assignments.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Course Outline or Schedule:

All assignments are due at midnight of the day in which they are to be completed. Units will be made unavailable as we complete them and you will not be able to complete assignments after that time.

| <i>Title of Learning Unit</i> |
|--|
| Learning Unit 1: From Poetry to Philosophy |

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 03

Learning Unit 2: The Pre-Socratics

Learning Unit 3: Socrates

Learning Unit 4: Plato

Learning Unit 5: Aristotle

Learning Unit 6: Late Roman Philosophy

Learning Unit 7: Augustine of Hippo

Learning Unit 8: Medieval Scholasticism

Learning Unit 9: Thomas Aquinas

Learning Unit 10: Bacon & Hobbes

Learning Unit 11: Descartes

Learning Unit 12: Locke

Learning Unit 13: Kant

Learning Unit 14: Marx

Learning Unit 15: Nietzsche

Course Grading Information:

Exams: Will consist of a brief short-answer/listing, multiple choice and fill in the blank questions. You will not need a scantron form. You will only need something to write with to complete the exam.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 03

Writing Assignments (Mid-term and Final): For the mid-term and final you will be required to compose an “academic encyclopedia” entry. The student will write an academic encyclopedia article over one of the philosophers or topics that we have over the course of the class. Using the examples provided, the textbook for the class, research databases and reputable academic online sources, the student will provide a concise but thorough article on the selected philosopher or philosophical topic. The article should be approximately 500 words. It should be grammatically correct. It should cite any sources used in either print or internet material (lack of citation will result in an incomplete grade for the assignment). **DO NOT** copy/paste a wikipedia article (or other similar online source) into the assignment box. This should constitute original work and failure to comply in this regard will result in an F for the assignment. Each of these assignments will be worth 75 points. The total value of the writing assignments is 150 points.

Discussion Participation: I will keep a daily log of your participation on days that we cover Plato’s *Republic*. We will have ten class meetings where we discuss the *Republic* and you will be eligible for 10 points on each of those days. If you are absent on one of those days you may make up for discussion by turning in a 500 word response to the readings for that day. You may turn in a maximum of two make up responses for the entire semester.

Grade Scale:

| Letter Grade | Point Range |
|--------------|-------------|
| A | 700-630 |
| B | 629-560 |
| C | 559-490 |
| D | 489-420 |
| F | 419-0 |

Note Well: This is strictly a points system. You must get to a particular point total to receive the grade you desire. DO NOT get caught up with percentages, decimals and rounding up. If you want an “A” then you need at least 540 points or above. If you get 539 it is a “B” and is non-negotiable.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make-Up Work Policies:

Late work will not be accepted for any reason. If you anticipate missing a class when an assignment is due, please turn the assignment in prior to that class meeting. Since all assignments other than exams are given in advance, students should be able to complete assignments ahead of time if necessary.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 03

Make up exams will only be allowed in the case of excused (MCC approved) absences and are highly discouraged. The make-up exam will be a different exam from the exam given to the rest of the class. Please make every effort to take exams at the times scheduled.

No incomplete grades will be issued. Please complete all assignments and exams by the assigned time. Any incomplete work will be calculated into the final grade as a "0" and submitted as such.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to a proper learning environment. Not only is disruptive conduct not tolerated, but full participation is expected by all students in attendance.

Students of the College, while on campus and/or participating in any function or activity of the College, are expected to meet acceptable standards of dress and personal hygiene. A student's dress or personal hygiene shall be considered unacceptable if it inhibits or interferes with the educational responsibility of the college community or if it disrupts the administrative functions of the College, including social-educational activities.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

*** [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

**** You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari) to print each link's information.***

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ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit <https://www.mclennan.edu/disability/>.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you

or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.