

**McLennan**  
C O M M U N I T Y  
**C O L L E G E**

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**AND**  
**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL 1301 91**

**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 on any changes to these guidelines.

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 91

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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/>

## **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Though the course is largely oriented around lectures on various topics, the instructor seeks to incorporate class discussion into the context of the lectures. At various times in the semester, the class will focus on a particular document, text or film. At these points, the focus will largely be on student participation/discussion with relevant faculty direction.

## **Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 91

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intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** -- to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## **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><b>Title of Learning Unit</b></i>
Learning Unit 1: From Poetry to Philosophy
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

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 91

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Learning Unit 10: Bacon & Hobbes
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Learning Unit 11: Descartes
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Learning Unit 12: Locke
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Learning Unit 13: Kant
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Learning Unit 14: Marx
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Learning Unit 15: Nietzsche
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## **Course Grading Information:**

Quizzes: Will consist of multiple choice, True/False and fill in the blank questions.

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 provides, 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: At the end of each Learning Unit you will be required to view a "Prezi" presentation (or other material). You will then be prompted to launch a discussion board for that particular unit related to the "Prezi." There will be a starter thread there with instructions on how to proceed. For each discussion board you will be required to post your own response to the thread. The clarity of your post, the grammatical correctness of your post and the accuracy of the information present in the post will all contribute to your overall grade. There will be a total of 10 points a week for Discussion Board participation. The total value of Discussion Board participation is 150 points.

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 91

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Letter Grade	Point Range
A	600 - 540
B	539 - 480
C	479 - 420
D	419 - 360
F	359 - 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.

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.

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301 91

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\* **[Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)**

([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://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)**

(<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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Updated 11/04/2022

**McLennan**  
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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 [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

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

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto: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 acting Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center 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 <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am - 5:00 pm on Friday. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom (<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998500>) or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) during the above mentioned times.

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to [https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_07byXd7eB8iTqJg](https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg). Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's 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](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**



Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://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-andStaffCommons/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 (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. 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 [www.mclennan.edu/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.