

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Introduction to Philosophy**

**PHIL\_1301\_O280**

**Dr. John Spano**

**NOTE: This is a 8-week course.**

**NOTE: This is an Online course.**

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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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:**

*None*

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

*None*

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. John Spano

MCC E-mail: [jspano@mclennan.edu](mailto:jspano@mclennan.edu) – Email recommended.

Office Phone Number:

Office Location: MAC 331

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: email.

Other Instruction Information:

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: Intro to Philosophy (MCC)(CUSTOM) PHIL 1301

Author: Lawhead

ISBN:

Copyright Year:

Publisher: Cengage Learning Custom Publishing

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

*Lectures, forums, papers, writing, tests, quizzes*

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

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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- **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 Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

Any change could occur at professors discretion.

Dates	Lawhead Book	Assignments	
Lesson 1	The Greek Cultural Context: From Poetry to Philosophy	1 quiz  Introductory Forum	Due by 11:30 p.m. c.s.t. Sunday

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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Lesson 2	Greek Philosophy Before Socrates	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 3	Skepticism and the Keys to Success	Textbook quiz Essay test	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 4	Plato: The Search for Ultimate Success	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 5	Aristotle: Understanding the Natural World	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 6	Classical Philosophy After Aristotle	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
	Midterm Test		Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 7	St. Augustine: Philosophy in the Service of Faith	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 8	Philosophy and Theology in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 9	St. Thomas Aquinas: Aristotle's Philosophy and Christian Thought	Textbook quiz Essay Exam	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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Lesson 10	Rene Descartes: Founder of Modern Philosophy	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 11	Karl Marx: A Philosophy for Changing the World	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 12	Friedrich Nietzsche: The Founder of Secular Existentialism	Textbook quiz Primary Quiz	Due 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
Lesson 13	After Nietzsche	Discussion Forum	Due by 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday
		Final	Due by 11:30 p.m. c.s.t Sunday

**Course Grading Information:**

**Quizzes over text : 35%.** These quizzes will be objective (multiple choice and true/false) and often include short answer/essays. There will be 10-15 questions. You will be given 1 attempts to take these quizzes.

**Quizzes over primary readings: 15%** These assignments will cover the primary text. There will also be PowerPoint lectures or links to videos that will help you in your reading of the primary text. You will be given unlimited attempts to take these quizzes.

**2 essay exams 15%:** You will have 2 essay exams, one at the end of Lesson 3 and the other in Lesson 9.

**Midterm and Final: Total – 35%.** The midterm and final are a mixture of multiple choice and true/false and a number of short answer questions. These will be worth 100 points each.

COURSE NAME  
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Grading Scale

90-100% = A

80-89.9% = B

70-79.9% = C

60-69.9% = D

0-59.9% = F

**Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:**

*Talk to professor.*

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

*Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.*

**[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.

10/09/2023



## **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 Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/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 may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

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 [success@mclennan.edu](mailto:success@mclennan.edu).

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

**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:**

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

**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 (<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](#) 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.