

**Syllabus**  
**Philosophy 101**  
**Introduction to Philosophy**

Course: PHIL 101, **Spring 15**, 4 Units

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**Introduction**

Welcome to Philosophy 101, Introduction to Philosophy! If philosophy is an exploration of the true, the good, and the beautiful, then this course specifically investigates truth, goodness and beauty. We will compare and contrast the fundamental insights, ideals and contributions toward the growth of wisdom that have found a place in the course of human development and history in the Western world. Students will gain insight into the similarities and differences of these various philosophical theories. In doing so, students will continue to develop their analytical and critical thinking skills. In studying the nature of truth, goodness, and beauty, it is hoped that students will find sources of meaning and values relevant to their own lives now.

**Required Materials**

*The Heart of Philosophy*, Jacob Needleman, ISBN#: 978-1585422517

LTCC Bookstore: <http://www.ltcc.edu/student-services.asp?scatID=33>

**How to Access Your Course**

The course site, delivered through Etudes, will be accessible at 8:00 a.m. on the first day of classes. To login onto your course, please follow these instructions:

[etudes.org/gateway/login-ltcc.html](http://etudes.org/gateway/login-ltcc.html)

Please give me a call or e-mail me if you have any problems!

**Course Description**

This course is an exploration of some of the most profound ideas of the Western world's greatest philosophers. I hope that for many of you this course will be a study of wisdom and meaning and that you will find it not only interesting but also

relevant to your life. The purpose of this course is to come to a deeper understanding of how philosophy addresses the problems of meaning in human life and death. What is the purpose of our existence? Why are we here? Can we find out? And if so, how? I hope these types of questions will engage you and help you to think more clearly and critically about your own beliefs and worldview.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Understand philosophical problems with more empathy -
- Increase multicultural awareness -
- Understand one's self better and clarify one's values -
- Think more critically -
- Write more clearly -
- Comprehend the essential concepts and insights of philosophy -
- Demonstrate an ability to think for yourself and discover ways to function competently and maturely in a complex world
- Compare and contrast the different historical developments of certain ideas such as the problem of evil as various people throughout time study it.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Compare and contrast different philosophers and philosophies from different eras and philosophical movements.

Evaluate philosophical principles introduced by the philosophers.

Analyze and synthesize philosophical ideas in order to derive personal beliefs.

### **Course Requirements and Expectations**

This course requires active participation and a Final. All work is expected to be proofread, well written, and on time. I encourage students to complete your work on your word processor so that you can save a copy outside of Etudes-NG and so that you can proofread and spell check your work. By saving your work in an outside program you will not have to write a new reflection if your posting gets lost in "cyberspace!" The first assignment is to simply perform a few functions that show me you have learned to use this online system.

A class online is necessarily different than a class where we are all together. I miss the regular contact with students, but I also realize that online courses have distinct advantages. I am available by phone and through messages and I will sometimes be in the Live Chat link to say hello and answer questions. I would love to meet you if you are ever in the Monterey area where I teach at Monterey Peninsula College.

Online class sessions will consist of a lecture, text reading, and discussions. Lectures are in the Modules link and discussions will be held in the Discussion and Private Message link. The class really thrives on discussions and the feedback you give to one another.

Please be sure to log on often and always check for new Announcements before you start working on your assignments. You can arrange under the preferences link in your My Workspace page to be notified of my announcements by e-mail. This is a good idea.

## **Grading Scale**

Points Possible

Active participation 270

Final 100

Total 370

Point Range Grade

370-333 A

332-295 B

294-257 C

256-219 D

218 - 0 F

## **Methods of Evaluation**

Participation is required and will be included in the overall grade. Participation requires three reflections on each topic (for example: 1A, 1B, 1C) posted in the Discussion and Private Message link and the same three reflections copy and pasted into the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link.

There is a specific forum in the Discussion and Private message link for each entry listed under the topic we are studying. You must focus one entry on the lecture and the other on the text readings. In other words you have to demonstrate to me that you have read both the lecture and the text (500 word minimum, but you are welcome to write as much as you would like). The first 250 words should be a summary. Think of this as an open book reading quiz. Demonstrate to me that you have read the required reading. This is objective; I should not receive any opinion here. The second 250 words should be a reflection. This is where you tell me what you think about the reading, what you found interesting and what you learned. This part is subjective; I should receive your opinion here.

The third entry is a posting to at least two of your fellow students commenting on their thoughts. Each entry should be 250 words, for a 500 word total (minimum).

You reply to them right there in the same Discussion and Private Message forum where you read their reflection (push reply) and then copy and paste the same replies in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link.

Once you post your assignments in the private Assignments, Tests and Surveys link you need to go the public Discussion and Private Message link, and copy and paste the *just the reflection section again*. Do not post your summary publicly, just your reflection section. I admit this seems unusual, but I have found it the simplest way for me to read, leave comments and post your grades. (I cannot post your grades publicly in the Discussion and Private Message link). You post in the Discussion and Private Message link for the benefit of the whole class (just your reflection) and you copy and paste the whole assignment (summary and reflection) in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link for my benefit and your privacy.

**\*\*IMPORTANT:** Without posting in BOTH areas, you will not receive credit for that assignment. Please check your grades once a week so that there are no surprises at the end of the quarter!

Please go to the Assignments, Tests and Surveys link for the detailed directions on each assignment as well as the Final. This syllabus is only meant as an overview and most questions are answered by reading the detailed instructions in the Assignments link. You can look at any assignment, just do not push "Finished" until you actually submit an assignment. That way you can back in whenever you need to. I am including a brief overview of the Final here:

The Final Exam consists of a field project so you will need to make arrangements in advance. I encourage you to do this early in the quarter and then you won't have to worry about it when all of your other finals are due. The Final Exam will be a 2000 word reflective essay on a visit you make to a philosophical event different from any previous experience that you have had. The idea is to have a completely new experience in a way that broadens your views and opens your mind! Please see Final in the Assignments link for detailed information and suggestions, and keep your eye out for talks, seminars, and workshops that might interest you. Please make sure you let me know your plans to be sure that it will be acceptable.

**Please note: You cannot turn in half a Final Project for half credit. Just as you would fail a written exam if you walked out of it only half way through, so an incomplete project will be failed.**

### **Grading Policy**

I respond to each assignment, so once you see your grade posted you should read what I wrote, especially if you are not happy with your grade you will find an explanation. Just scroll down to see my comments. I don't explain 9's because they are still A's! Anything less than a 9 I explain in the comments unless it is

simply a matter of being late, which is self-explanatory (see late work policy below). I try to save 10's for when I feel I have received a student's very best work, as there is no grade higher. This is a judgment call I make. But it does help to write more than a minimum and make mention of the major themes in the lecture. It is always a good idea to make sure it is completely proofread.

Points for participation is a significant part of your grade. So, for example, if you want to contradict something in the lecture and/or text, please do so intelligently (meaning you will need to support your viewpoint!). I encourage you to ask each other questions and engage in dialogues. The main rule is to be respectful of those with different opinions!

I do not offer extra credit and you cannot decide you need an "A" well into the quarter. You have to decide on the first day of class!

### **System Requirements and Following Directions**

I will grade down assignments that demonstrate that you are not following the directions, such as when you fail to address a peer by name in your peer responses or your work is not formatted correctly. I do want to place the emphasis on the content of your work, but it is nevertheless expected that you will learn to use etudes correctly and set up your computer according to the system requirements: [etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad0865](http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad0865)

### **Alternative Learning Policy**

We know now that many people learn in ways that are not always recognized in our school system. I don't want this class to fall into that unhappy statistic. If you have a suggestion about how you can best master this material that will require at least as much effort as the standard requirements, then I am open to discussing this with you. However, I want to know right away. I want us to come up with a contract in the first two weeks of the quarter, so please make an appointment with me right away!

### **Instructor Response Policy**

I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the "Discussion and Private Messages" and "Live Chat" links. Please feel free to call me during the school week after 8:00 a.m. and before 10:00 p.m. Pacific Time (US).

Rather than use my e-mail, I want to communicate through this Etudes-NG program. It is simpler to answer questions within this program. However, if you don't get a response within 24 hours on weekdays then please go ahead and e-

mail me or call. If you contact me over the weekend I will return your message by Monday evening.

### **Student Responsibility for Email Communication**

As a student using email communications with LTCC, you are expected to white-list all ltcc.edu addresses in your spam filter to ensure that vital communications from the College and your instructors are received without delay. Due to the large number of students enrolled at LTCC, college employees are unable to respond to automated queries from your spam filter to authenticate LTCC as a legitimate sender.

### **Late Work Policy**

I do not grade down assignments that are late for the first week of the course as people are adding the class and getting used to the system. [I will send out an announcement before I activate the late work policy.](#) The program will automatically mark it as late if you submit even one minute past the due time. As the due time is not until 11:00 P.M. (way past when most classes are done for the day), I will hold you to that time. Each day it is late I will mark it down ten percent (usually one point, except for the final which is 10 points) from the grade it would have earned had it been on time.

After five days I will no longer accept submissions and you will receive a zero. If you have an exceptional reason why you cannot turn in an assignment on time, I expect you to communicate with me [before](#) the assignment is due (not afterward) to get approval and make alternative arrangements. This is much the same as calling in sick for work. You just don't disappear, but you call in and let people know you can't be there. I expect the same courtesy in this class.

### **Drop Policy**

[If you choose to drop a course, it is your responsibility to do so.](#) Please see the Academic Calendar for official dates: <http://www.ltcc.edu/current.asp?scatID=43>

[Last day to drop class without a "W": 1-16-14](#)

[Last day to drop class with a "W": 2-20-15](#)

### **Special Needs and Disabled Students Policy**

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a Private Message. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the Disability Resource Center (DRC) Office in providing them. The DRC Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring,

academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance: [www.ltcc.edu/current.asp](http://www.ltcc.edu/current.asp)

## Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and Lake Tahoe Community College; therefore, acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify will not be tolerated in this course. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and you can read about it here: [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action.

## Class Sessions and Schedule

You will find specific due dates and times on the Assignments, Tests, and Surveys page and on the Course Map page. Most lecture reflections are due on Mondays, text reflections on Wednesdays, and most peer responses are due on Fridays, but sometimes the schedule is adjusted due to holidays. If you need a day off you can always work ahead, but you cannot be late without penalty.

Due Week 1: The first week is for looking around and getting to know this online delivery system, Etudes-NG. Please go through the first two modules. This will save you a great deal of time. Please introduce yourself in the Student Lounge and also send me a Private Message. If you don't send me a Private Message then there is no way for me to know that you are active in the class and you may be dropped. This also demonstrates to me that you are becoming familiar with how to use our class system.

Assignment 1: Introduction: Please be sure to read both my first lecture in the "Modules" link and also our text The Heart of Philosophy, Chapters 1 and 2. Your first assignment is due on Monday, January 12th.

Assignment 2: The Axial Age and Pythagoras

Read Lecture 2 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapter 3

Assignment 3: Socrates and Questions

Read Lecture 3 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapters 4 and 5

Assignment 4: Modern Philosophy and A Strange Warmth

Read Lecture 4 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapter 6

Assignment 5: Political Philosophy and Parents

Read Lecture 5 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapter 7

Assignment 6: Idealism and Reality

Read Lecture 6 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapters 8 and 9

Assignment 7: The Search for Truth and One Self

Read Lecture 7 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapter 10

Assignment 8: American Philosophy and the Indestructible Question

Read Lecture 8 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, chapter 11

Assignment 9: Conclusion

Read Lecture 9 in the "Modules" link

Read *The Heart of Philosophy*, conclusion

Assignment 10: **Final Project due on Tuesday, March 24th, at 11:00 PM.**

Please note that you can complete the final as early in the quarter as you would like. See the Assignments link for detailed instructions. There is no grace period on the Final!

### **Online Student Resources**

Online Student Helpdesk: <mailto:onlineclasses@ltcc.edu>

Course Login: <https://myetudes.org>

Technical Requirements: [etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa](http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa)

LTCC Homepage: [www.ltcc.edu/index.asp](http://www.ltcc.edu/index.asp)

LTCC Online Homepage: [www.ltcc.edu/online](http://www.ltcc.edu/online)

LTCC Counseling: [www.ltcc.edu/student-services.asp](http://www.ltcc.edu/student-services.asp)

LTCC Library: [library.ltcc.edu/](http://library.ltcc.edu/)

LTCC Bookstore: [www.ltcc.edu/student-services.asp](http://www.ltcc.edu/student-services.asp)

LTCC Student Help: [etudes.org/gateway/etudes-student-help-ltcc.html](http://etudes.org/gateway/etudes-student-help-ltcc.html)

Netiquette: [www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

Strategies for Online Learners: [www.uidaho.edu/eo/dist8.html](http://www.uidaho.edu/eo/dist8.html)

Be a Successful Online

Student: [www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp](http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp)

Tips for Online

Success: [www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp](http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp)

**Highly recommended: you can attend the on-campus Student Orientation to**

**ETUDES NG: See link for up-to-date information on when and where:**

<http://www.ltcc.edu/onlineclasses.asp?area=Article&artID=254&iefix=91648502>

For those students who are off campus and cannot make the workshops LTCC does have a few mini-tutorials via video on this page:

<http://www.ltcc.edu/onlineservices.asp?area=Article&artID=255&iefix=2393741>

LTCC now has 24/7 help for online students.

You can access help by going to the Etudes Gateway (<https://myetudes.org>), click on "Login Help" on the left and then on the very first link. Scroll down to LTCC. You may request login information for your Etudes class. Or you can use the Student Help site to submit a question.

For personal help Monday-Friday, 8-5 p.m., students can log onto:

[onlineclasses@ltcc.edu](mailto:onlineclasses@ltcc.edu)

### ***Should you enroll in an online course?***

Online classes are **challenging!** They demand **time** and **frequent attention**.

See if you are **ready**:

**Take a couple of self-assessments to see if you are the type of student who may succeed in an online class:**

- [Austin Community College's Learning Style Survey](#)
- Washington Online's [Is Online Learning For Me?](#) quiz.

### **Do you have the following technical skills required to succeed in an online course?**

- I can create, type, and edit a document in Microsoft Word.
- I can open and save a file in Microsoft Word.
- I can create folders on the PC or Mac.
- I can save and retrieve files from folders.
- I can use a browser to navigate Web pages.
- I have an email account and can send and receive email with attachments.

If you have the study and computer skills, then move on to.....

### ***Do you have the required technology at your disposal?***

Most of our online courses are taught using the Etudes Learning Management System. Here are the [Etudes System Requirements](#). Ensure you can meet these requirements before you move on to...

### ***How do you select courses and register?***

Speak with a counselor to create an education plan. Contact [Student Services](#) either by phone at (530) 541-4660 x 231 or via email at [studentservices@ltcc.edu](mailto:studentservices@ltcc.edu).

See the [schedule of classes](#).

Log in to the college's web portal (named Passport) in order to enroll online. [Here is how](#).

### ***Etudes information***

Logging in:

- Link to [Etudes portal](#)
- Our [Login formula](#)
- [How to login to Etudes \(video\)](#)
- If you have problems logging in, try our [Student help desk](#)
- For on-campus help contact Carol Merkley at (530) 541-4660 ext. 250.

Using Etudes

- Etudes [System Requirements](#)
- [Student Orientation video](#)
- [Student User Guide](#) (pdf)
- [Etudes Dashboard - Quick Start Guide](#) (pdf)
- [Student Help](#) from etudes.org
- [Login & Other Help](#) from the etudes portal (myetudes.org)

### ***Other resources***

- [Student Services](#)
- [Tutoring and Learning Center](#)
- [Disability Resource Center](#)
- [Library](#)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rugu50Z6nQU&feature=youtube>