

Fall 2018 Syllabus, Middlesex County College

Introduction to Philosophy

PHI-121

Instructor: Parviz Dehghani, PhD
Office Hours: Tuesday 10am – 11am and by appointment
Class Meetings: Tuesday 11am - 2:10pm College Center - Room 175
Phone #: (732) 906- 8377. Calls are preferred for speedy response
E-mail address: drparviz@optonline.net.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will critically examine fundamental issues and problems in Philosophy. A brief history of philosophy will accompany each lecture so that students will gradually become familiar with the Western intellectual tradition prior to Socrates up to the present time. In this course students will be induced to think for themselves rather than let others do the thinking for them. Over the course of this semester we'll learn about the mystery of being and its application for modern time. We'll examine our life so we can have an authentic existence which is different from just being alive.

(Does not require a PHI pre-requisite).

3 Lecture Hours

(This means that you should anticipate 2 hours of homework for every contact hour in the classroom. Therefore, this means that approximately 5 hours of homework should be expected. This will vary from student to student).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. *Discuss Basic Ideas of Leading Philosophers*
Discuss the basic ideas of leading philosophers from classic to modern times in the context of the cultural milieu in which each lived.
2. *Describe the Development of Economic Theory*
Describe the development of economic theory showing that American economic development is pragmatic, undoctrinaire, and inconsistent with both capitalist theory and its Marxist counterpart.
3. *Relate History of Philosophy with Present Societal Conditions*
Relate the events, ideas and people throughout the history of philosophy with present societal conditions.

4. *Produce Well Organized Research Papers and Documents*
Employ appropriate research methodologies to study major topics in Philosophy and to produce clear, well-organized and accurate research papers and other documents to communicate knowledge of Philosophy.
5. *Discuss Main Divisions of Philosophy*
Discuss the main divisions of philosophy, showing how philosophy is the source of all scientific disciplines, and how philosophy is differentiated from religion.
6. HOPEFULLY – to foster a genuine appreciation of philosophy

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Donald Palmer, *Looking At Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter* – 6th Edition

CONTACT/OFFICE HOURS:

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30am-12:30pm
and by appointment

Email: drparviz@optonline.net

Phone Number: (732) 906-8377

GRADING/SCORING:

This course consists of four major parts:

Attendance and class participation (10%)

A Class presentation (20%)

A mid-term three-page paper (30%)

A final exam (home or in class) (40%)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic dishonesty is any attempt by the student to gain academic advantage through dishonest means, to submit, as his or hers, work which has not been done by him/her or to give improper aid to another student in the completion of an assignment. Such dishonesty would include, but is not limited to: submitting as his/her own a project, paper, report, test, or speech copied from, partially copied, or paraphrased from the work of another (whether the source is printed, under copyright, or in manuscript form). Credit must be given for words quoted or

paraphrased. The rules apply to any academic dishonesty, whether the work is graded or ungraded, group or individual, written or oral.

ACCOMMODATIONS & DISABILITY SERVICES

Your learning experience is extremely important. Please share with me the appropriate accommodation documentation so that I can make sure to assist in whatever ways I can: *Middlesex County college is committed to providing equal education access for individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008 and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. An Individual with a disability who is qualified for admission will have the same access to programs, services, and activities as all other students. Middlesex County College will make reasonable modifications to its policies, practices, and procedures unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity, or pose an undue administrative or financial burden. The college will provide services in a manner that promotes independence and inclusion in all aspects of college life.*

ATTENDANCE

The final grades will have a lot to do with your attendance records. Whether legitimate or otherwise your absences will influence the depth and the quality of your works. Thus, the more you are absent the lower your grades will be for the semester. The burden of making up for your absences is on your shoulders and not your teacher's. You should control the number of your absences, so they will not exceed # 3. You are also responsible for catching up with the rest of the class by perhaps borrowing your friends' notes, etc.

CLASS POLICIES

Late papers will get late grades, so please do not turn in your papers late. Be actively involved in the class and do not make things more difficult for the rest of the class by chatting and distracting your class mates through your cell phones, etc. if you choose to be absent for Religious holidays, you will be responsible for the material covered in the class.

PRESENTATION RULES

There will be class presentations given by the students throughout the semester. These presentations will be based on the reading assignments for each class. Students shall be randomly chosen to give these presentations and they will be graded in-class. Students will not be permitted to read from their notes. However, they are allowed to glance at them once in a while. They are to maintain proper eye contact with their classmates while keeping an eye on the highlights of the

subject at hand. If they are not ready, they will receive a negative sign in front of their name, which will in turn affect their final grade at the end of the semester. But if they are ready, they will get a positive sign, in front of their name, which will help them with their final grade. Those who have already given a presentation can be called upon again to give another one at any time. ((If you miss a class you are still obligated to complete the required reading assignment for that class so you will not fall behind.))

MIDTERM

You will be required to write a three-page paper using your texts, library sources, and class notes if needed. The class texts must not be bypassed for they are your main sources. **The Internet *cannot* be used as a source in the paper but students are free to read the material available on it concerning the subjects of their papers.** All papers are to be cited properly, for example, (Palmer, p. 154). Failure to do so will render points reduction. The first page will be research, the second page will be a student's personal life experience (students are to think for themselves and discuss their own personal experiences and/or experiences of their friends or loved ones in relation to their chosen topic) and the third page will be the conclusion in which the students will summarize how their personal life experiences relate to the religious subject at hand. The conclusion is where the student will either agree or disagree with the religion or religious views and analyze their given situation with relation to the topic they have chosen for their paper. Students can choose any topic throughout the text. A bibliography is not necessary unless new sources aside from the course text are used. **Students are not allowed to bypass their texts and write their papers based on another source.** Depth is the key in this course. Do not let your papers be ordinary, strive to be unique and express your own individual perspectives on the issues. Use your past and present experiences or even what you are planning to do in the future for your life in relation to your topics. Your grades will reflect what you put into the papers.

PAPERS MUST FOLLOW THESE GUIDLINES:

FONT: Times New Roman, Size 12

DOUBLE SPACE

Papers must be handed to the professor in person on the date due, late papers will NOT be accepted. They should not be put in the teacher's mail box.

YOU MAY NOT USE ANY INTERNET SOURCES FOR YOUR PAPERS

Final Exam

This part plays a major role in the students' final grade. The final shall either be take home or in class depending on the class' performance. If the exam is a take home, there shall be enough time given to the students to turn in their exams in time.

Students are supposed to answer the questions based on their own thoughts and opinions and not the opinions of the author of the text. The text should only be used to check some facts, that is, dates, names and other information. However, when they are asked: "what do you think about these questions?" they are asked to think for themselves and not let others do the thinking for them.

YOU MAY NOT USE ANY INTERNET SOURCES FOR YOUR FINAL

If a take home exam is given, the exam must be handed to the professor in person on the date due, LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.