

# Introduction to Philosophy PHIL 1301 2A4

## CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

## MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Online

## PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

None

## 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.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

## INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Blake Mires

Email: nbmires@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409) 247-5080

Office Location: Technology Center 223

Office Hours: **Monday:** 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Dual Credit Office); 11:00–11:30 a.m. (may be traveling back to campus); 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; 2:00–3:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** 10:00–11:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Dual Credit Office); 11:00–11:30 a.m. (may be traveling back to campus); 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
**Thursday:** 10:00–11:00 a.m.; 12:30–1:00 p.m.  
**Friday:** 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Dual Credit Office); 11:00–11:30 a.m. (may be traveling back to campus)



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## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

1. *An Introduction to Philosophy* by Russ Payne  
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/an-introduction-to-philosophy>
2. *Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics* edited by George Matthews  
<https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/>
3. *Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion* edited by Beau Branson  
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/942>
4. Use of the library, Internet, and current information sources such as newspapers, TV and journals.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are required to log on weekly to Blackboard and review the week's course material. Additionally, you are required to check your LIT emails weekly. Assignments are typically due each week.

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

## COURSE CALENDAR

| Module | TOPIC                                                                            | ASSIGNMENTS<br>(Due on this Date)                                                                     |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Course Introduction and Policies<br>Discussion of Syllabus<br>What is Philosophy | Syllabus Quiz<br>Module 1 Discussion<br>09/27/2026, 11:59 PM                                          |
| 2      | How to do Philosophy<br>Ancient Philosophy                                       | Module 2 Essay<br>Quiz over "What is Philosophy" and "How Philosophy is Done"<br>10/04/2026 11:59 PM  |
| 3      | Plato's allegory of the cave<br>Rationalism                                      | Module 3 Discussion Board<br>Quiz over "Ancient Philosophy" and "Rationalism"<br>10/11/2026, 11:59 PM |
| 4      | Empiricism<br>Philosophy of Science                                              | AI conversation 1<br>Quiz over "Empiricism" and "Philosophy of Science"<br>10/11/2026, 11:59 PM       |
| 5      | Philosophy of Mind<br>Love and Happiness                                         | Logic Assignment<br>Quiz over "Philosophy of Mind" and "Love and Happiness"                           |

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|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                                                                                                             | 10/18/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6  | Meta Ethics<br>Right Action                                                                                                 | AI conversation 2<br>Quiz over "Meta Ethics" and "Right Actions"<br>10/18/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                                              |
| 7  | Social Justice<br>Aren't Right and Wrong<br>Just Matters of Opinion?                                                        | Module 7 Essay<br>Quiz over "Social Justice" and "Aren't Right and<br>Wrong Just Matters of Opinion"<br>10/25/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                          |
| 8  | Can We Have Ethics<br>without Religion?<br>How Can I Be a Better<br>Person?                                                 | AI conversation 3<br>Quiz over "Can We Have Ethics Without Religion"<br>and "How Can I Be a Better Person?"<br>11/01/2026, 11:59 PM<br><br>Common Assignment submitted during Module 12<br>11/22/2026 |
| 9  | What's in it for Me? On<br>Egoism and Social Contract<br>Theory<br>Utilitarianism                                           | Quiz over "What's in it for Me? On Egoism and Social<br>Contract Theory" and "Utilitarianism"<br>11/01/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                 |
| 10 | Kantian Deontology<br>Feminism and Feminist<br>Ethics                                                                       | AI conversation 4<br>Quiz over "Kantian Deontology" and "Feminist<br>Ethics"<br>11/08/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                                  |
| 11 | Evolutionary Ethics<br>Freedom of the Will                                                                                  | Quiz over "Evolutionary Ethics" and "Freedom of the<br>Will"<br>11/08/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                                                  |
| 12 | The Intertwining of<br>Philosophy and Religion in<br>the Western Tradition<br>Reasons to Believe –<br>Theoretical Arguments | AI conversation 5<br>Quiz over "The Intertwining of Philosophy and<br>Religion" and "Reasons to Believe"<br>11/15/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                      |
| 13 | Non-Standard Arguments<br>for God's Existence<br>Reasons Not to Believe                                                     | Quiz over "Non-Standard Arguments for God's<br>Existence" and "Reasons not to Believe"<br>11/22/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                        |
| 14 | Debunking Arguments<br>against Theistic Belief<br>From Philosophy of<br>(Mono)theism to<br>Philosophy of Religions          | Module 14 Essay<br><br>12/02/2026, 11:59 PM                                                                                                                                                           |

|    |                      |                                                                                                            |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 | Review<br>Final Exam | Final Exam<br>Extra credit quiz over "Debunking Arguments Against Theistic Belief"<br>12/04/2026, 11:59 PM |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- |    |                        |      |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 1. | Quizzes                | 25%  |
| 2. | Logic Assignment       | 5 %  |
| 3. | Discussions and Essays | 20%  |
| 4. | AI Conversations       | 10%  |
| 5. | Common Assignment      | 20%  |
| 6. | Final Exam             | 20 % |

### **GRADE SCALE**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT**

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

## **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

1. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard.
2. Students with approved accommodations must provide the instructor with their official accommodation letter before the accommodations can take effect. Accommodations will apply after the instructor receives the required documentation.
3. Type Discussion and Essay answers directly into Blackboard. Do not attach a file for your answer. If, for some reason, you do need to submit a text file, you must use Microsoft Word.

4. All homework must be typed and use MLA format for citations:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html)  
**Use MLA formatting for the Common Assignment. You must include your sources for the Common Assignment.**
5. All homework, papers, and tests must be completed solely by the student. A first instance of plagiarism will result, at minimum, in a zero on the assignment. A second offense will result in dismissal from the course. (Student not dropped from the course.)
6. Students should use AI only as directed in the AI Conversation assignments. All questions, replies, discussions, and essays should be in the student's own words.
7. All assignments must be submitted with an English version of the assignment.
8. Pen/pencil and paper are required for face-to-face classes
9. Mature behavior is expected at all times.
10. Access to Blackboard and your LIT email is required. **Frequently check for any new announcements.**
11. Late work will not be accepted except in the case of a **documentable emergency** beyond the student's control. Complete assignments and submit them by the due date. You may turn them in early, but not after the due date. Technical difficulties and any other issues must be resolved before the due date, and they will not result in a time extension. If you have issues with Blackboard, use the Technical Support link. **Any emails requesting help with an assignment must be sent on a weekday at least 48 hours before the due date. For assignments due over the weekend, emails must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday. Emails sent during the weekend will be answered the following work week. Each message must include your name, course, and class section (e.g., PHIL 1301 3A1).**
12. The lowest discussion/essay grade and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. You may turn assignments in early, but not after the due date.
13. Due dates may need to be altered. I will update the Blackboard calendar if a due date is changed.