

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Philosophy 121: Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours – 3

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites– none

Supplies – none

Required Texts

From Wonder to Wisdom, Arjo et al. eds.

Description

It's been said that philosophy is the attempt to think well about difficult problems, to which it might be added that the problems worth of philosophical attention arise in just about every area of human inquiry. This course is a study of the basic questions studied by philosophy, such as the nature of being, the ways we acquire knowledge, our place in the natural world, and the sources of our moral, social, and political values. Emphasis is placed on the application of the study of traditional problems of philosophy to the study of contemporary society.

Objectives

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Acquire an understanding of the issues, problems, and practices involved in our efforts to make philosophical sense of our beliefs about reality, knowledge, and values.
2. Develop the ability to think in an evaluative and interpretive manner.
3. Develop an appreciation for alternative points of view.

4. Develop habits of character contributive to academic and philosophical excellence.

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course, Phil 1101, as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Note: If you are a student with a disability and if you will be requesting accommodations it is your responsibility to contact Special Services, Room 309 Commons. Special Services will recommend any appropriate accommodations to your instructor and his director. The instructor and director will identify for you which accommodations will be arranged.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings

Assigned readings will form the basis of lectures and class discussion. Though much of it may be difficult, it is important that the readings be done before class, and that you read carefully and critically.

Lectures/Discussions

Classes will be devoted to the interpretation and discussion of the readings. More than any other academic discipline, philosophy is about openly engaging ideas, as opposed to the transmission of a body of doctrine or facts. What matters is the ability to perceive and appreciate philosophical problems, and the ability to analyze and offer attempts to address them. Consequently, neither the readings or lectures and discussions will suffice on their own, and material for exams and paper topics will be drawn from both.

Canvas

There is a Canvas site that is associated with this class. I will post assignments there as they are given as well as any handouts. You will also turn in your papers through Canvas and you have the option to turn in weekly assignments via Canvas as well.

Exams and Assignments

There will be five exams, all of which will emphasize writing and critical thinking. I will drop the lowest of your exam scores. Additionally, there will be two short papers that will allow for a more extended treatment of specific issues covered in class. There will be a total of fifteen weekly assignments addressed to the reading, such as brief summaries and study questions. In order to receive credit, these assignments must be directed towards the appropriate readings, and must be written in your own words. *Extremely close paraphrasing or copying passages from the book is plagiarism and is not acceptable.*

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows. Each exam will be worth 40 points, the paper 30 points each, and the weekly assignments 5 points each. The weekly assignment will be graded on accuracy and thoroughness, and must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due or earlier to receive full credit. There will also be 5 points for participation. How many of these you receive will be determined by how often you attend class, participate in discussions and turn in assignments on time.

Final grades will then be determined by the following scale:

- A – 90% - 100%
- B – 80% - 89%
- C – 70% - 79%
- D – 60% - 69%
- F – Below 60%

This will be adjusted if necessary.

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial and expected. Allowances will be made as much as possible for legitimate absences such as illness. Too many absences, even if excused, will invariably affect grades in an undesirable manner, and in any case make taking the class rather pointless.

Makeups and Late Work

Exams can be made up if arrangements are made with the professor *before the day of the exam*. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 2 points per day. The weekly assignments must be turned in by the beginning of class period on the date they are due. Late weekly assignments will be accepted for *a week after they are due* and will receive a maximum of 3 points. Students are responsible for getting any materials or information they missed by not being in class.

Cheating

Things speak for themselves. *At minimum*, anyone cheating will receive a 0 on the assignment with no chance of rewriting or otherwise making up the assignment. Depending on the circumstances academic dishonesty may also result in the student failing the class and/or the matter being referred to the administration, which could result in expulsion. Consistent with college policy, any work turned in may be checked electronically for unoriginal work that has not been properly cited.

Student Code of Conduct

Students are bound by all sections of the JCCC Student Code of Conduct - <http://www.jccc.edu/about/leadership-governance/policies/students/student->

[code-of-conduct/index.html](#) as well as the Student Handbook - <http://www.jccc.edu/student-resources/student-handbook.html>

ADA Compliance

<http://www.jccc.edu/about/leadership-governance/policies/accessibility-statement.html>

Counseling Resources

For academic, career, and personal counseling, visit the JCCC Counseling Center on the second floor of the Student Center or visit <http://www.jccc.edu/student-resources/counseling/>

Campus Health and Safety Measures

Campus Health Guidelines for COVID-19:

- Follow College COVID-19 safety guidelines. <https://www.jccc.edu/media-resources/covid-19/>
- Stay home when you are sick. Perform the [daily wellness self-check](#) each day before coming to campus
- Follow COVID-19 reporting instructions. <https://www.jccc.edu/media-resources/covid-19/covid-19-reporting.html>
- Follow CDC Guidance for social distancing and facial coverings
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing

Campus Safety: Information regarding student safety can be found at <http://www.jccc.edu/student-resources/police-safety/>.

Classroom and campus safety are of paramount importance at Johnson County Community College and are the shared responsibility of the entire campus population. Please review the following:

- Report Emergencies: to Campus Police (available 24 hours a day)
 - In person at the Midwest Trust Center (MTC 115)
 - Call 913-469-2500 (direct line) – *Tip: program in your cell phone*
 - Phone app - download JCCC Guardian (the free campus safety app: www.jccc.edu/guardian)
 - instant panic button and texting capability to Campus Police
 - Anonymous reports to KOPS-Watch
 - https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/en/report_company.asp?clientid=25868
 - or 888-258-3230
- Be Alert:
 - You are an extra set of eyes and ears to help maintain campus safety
 - Trust your instincts

- Report suspicious or unusual behavior/circumstances to Campus Police (see above)
- Be Prepared:
 - Identify the red/white stripe Building Emergency Response posters throughout campus and online that show egress routes, shelter, and equipment
 - View A.L.I.C.E. training (armed intruder response training - Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and/or Evacuate) – Student training video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMcT4-nWSqo>
 - Familiarize yourself with the [College Emergency Response Plan](#)
- During an Emergency: Notifications/Alerts (emergencies and inclement weather) are sent to all employees and students using email and text messaging
 - students are automatically enrolled, see [JCCC Alert - Emergency Notification](#)
- Weapons Policy: Effective July 1, 2017, concealed carry handguns are permitted in JCCC buildings subject to the restrictions set forth in the Weapons Policy. Handgun safety training is encouraged of all who choose to conceal carry. Suspected violations should be reported to JCCC Police Department 913-469-2500 or if an emergency, you can also call 911.