



**NORTHWEST**  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY  
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

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## Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Introduction to Philosophy**  
PHIL 39171, 48 contact hours, 3 credit hours

**5-Week Summer Session**

**Instructor:** TBA

**E-mail:** TBA

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Description**

Basic problems and ideas encountered in the moral and intellectual life of humankind are analyzed in a systematic, rather than an historical manner. Attention is devoted to the philosophies and theories of knowledge, metaphysics, religion, morals and politics and science.

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Rationale**

The rationale for the study of philosophy is self-evident in the meaning of the term - love of wisdom. As such, philosophy attempts to unify the various aspects of the human person (physical, emotional and intellectual) in such a way that the relationships between all forms of human endeavor and achievement can be grasped. It furthermore attempts to engender and encourage an appreciation of self and others with the desire towards integral personhood through recognition of one's limits and maximization of one's freedom and responsibility. In essence, philosophy is an invitation to intellectual and moral adulthood, with the rationale of this particular course being an initiation to that invitation.

### **Required Texts**

Kessler, Gary E. *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*. Wadsworth Pub Co; 7th edition, 1997.

Buckingham, Will, et al. *The Philosophy Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*. Penguin Random House, 2017.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The learning outcomes (aka objectives or competencies) of this course center on Critical Thinking. However, good thinking is interconnected to other key outcomes of the Northwest Core: communicating, managing information, valuing, and diversity/equity/inclusion.



This course, Introduction to Philosophy, is part of the Northwest Core program.

Program Outcome	Course Outcomes	Assessments
<u>The Northwest Core</u> 1-Core Communicating	1-C 39171 Communicating <i>- Understand the relationship between form and content in speaking and writing</i> <i>- Use visuals, non-alphabetic text, and non-verbal components successfully within spoken and written texts</i> <i>- Use research effectively in spoken and written texts</i>	Attendance Participation/Discussions Examination
<u>The Northwest Core</u> 2-Core Critical Thinking	2-C 39171 Critical Thinking <i>- Assimilate, retain, and interpret information</i> <i>- Utilize information to generate reasonable hypotheses and draw educated conclusions.</i> <i>- Elucidate solutions based on these conclusions with the ability to self-evaluate their effectiveness</i> <i>- Recognize that this process is self-reflective and continuous</i> <i>- Produce original expression of ideas</i> <i>- Develop the ability to identify and define problems and issues in preparation for seeking solutions</i>	Participation/Discussions Examination
<u>The Northwest Core</u> 3-Core Managing Information	3-C 39171 Managing Information <i>- Access and generate information using contemporary technologies</i> <i>- Evaluate information for currency, usefulness, and accuracy</i> <i>- Reorganize information for purpose</i> <i>- Present information clearly</i> <i>- Develop an appreciation of philosophical method and inquiry, appropriation of reading of philosophical texts skills</i>	Attendance Examination



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<p><u>The Northwest Core</u> 4-Core Valuing</p>	<p>4-C 39171 Valuing <i>- Evaluate the difference between true and false beliefs, right and wrong actions, as well as those values that underlie artistic expression and make appropriate decisions based on these values.</i> <i>- Compare historical and cultural value perspectives recognizing similarities and conflicts</i> <i>- Consider multiple perspectives, recognize biases, deal with</i></p>	<p>Participation/Discussions Examination</p>
	<p><i>ambiguity, and form and defend reasoned positions</i> <i>- Discuss fundamental issues which relate to human life and experience</i> <i>- Articulate the relationship between language, thought, and value</i></p>	
<p>The Northwest Core 5-Core Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</p>	<p>5-C 39171 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion <i>- Identify implicit and explicit bias in organizational policies, procedures, and practices.</i> <i>- Evaluate positions in critical conversations about social issues, respecting the different opinions of others even while defending their own</i> <i>- Articulate an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the Western philosophical tradition</i> <i>- Demonstrate the virtues of tolerance towards those who</i> <i>-</i> <i>- hold different views and humility with respect to the limits of one's own perspective</i></p>	<p>Attendance Participation/Discussions Examination</p>



### **Assessment**

Your final grade will have the following numerical equivalencies: A $\geq$ 90%, B $\geq$ 80%, C $\geq$ 70%, D $\geq$ 60%, F $<$ 60%.

Your final grade will be determined in accordance with the following:

Attendance

Participation/Discussion Boards

Examinations.

Weighting of Components of the Course Attendance – 20%

Participation/Discussion Boards - 60% Final Exam) - 20%

### **Method of Learning**

This course will be delivered fully online, and all instructional methods and assessments outlined as follows will be adapted to this format on Canvas. In this course, a schedule is provided so that the student can keep up with the work. It is recommended that the student follow the schedule as closely as possible which will facilitate discussions in the discussion board.

- 1) Read the assigned material for the day; attend class.
- 2) Add your reflections/comments to the discussion boards in a timely fashion.
- 3) Revisit the discussion boards to add comments and reflections on posts by your peers.
- 4) Contact the professor concerning course content.
- 5) Complete the final exam by the close of class.

Students are expected to have basic computer skills, general sense of how to navigate on web pages, and the ability to learn to use various web programs.

### **Topical Outline**

Introduction

Unit One: Ancient World

Unit Two: Medieval World

Unit Three: Renaissance

Unit Four: Revolution and Age of Reason Unit

Five: The Modern World

Unit Six: Contemporary Philosophy

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes as specified in the course syllabi for each course. It is the responsibility of the student to promptly notify his or her instructor when unable to attend class. Please refer to the university policy on attendance at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Attendance.pdf>

**Final exams:** If an emergency occurs that prevents the administration of a course scheduled final examination, the final course grades will be calculated based on the work in the course completed to that point in time and the faculty member's considered judgment. Final exams will not be rescheduled, and a grade of "I" will not be given as a result of an institutional cancellation of a final examination. This final exam policy does not apply to online courses.

**Administrative drop:** An instructor may request the Office of the Registrar delete a student from a course roster if the student has not met the prerequisite for the course as stated in the catalog, or as a result of non-attendance in the course..

**Academic integrity policy:** The students, faculty, and staff at Northwest endeavor to sustain an environment that values honesty in academic work, that acknowledges the authorized aid provided by and intellectual contributions of others, and that enables equitable student evaluation. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University's Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Academic-Integrity.pdf>



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**Non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy:** Northwest Missouri State University is committed to maintaining an environment for all faculty, staff, students, and third parties that is free of illegal discrimination and harassment. Please refer to the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/diversity/titlevi.htm>

**Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policy:** Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (commonly known as the Buckley Amendment), is a federal law which provides that colleges and universities will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. Please refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Family-Educational-Rights-and-Privacy-Act.pdf>