

Syllabus  
The University of New Orleans  
Dept. of Philosophy

## PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 476 & 585: Online

### Contact Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarence Mark Phillips  
**Office:** UNO: LA 391  
**Office Hours:** MWF 1-2; TTh 10:45-11; 12:15-1 (and by appointment)  
**Office / Mobile:** (504) 280-6659  
**Email:** [cmphilli@uno.edu](mailto:cmphilli@uno.edu) (add 'PHIL 1000' to subject line)  
**Course Webpages:** [Moodle](#) login page

### Required Texts

- [1] Melchert, Norman - The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy (7th ed.), Mayfield, Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780915397611
- [2] (Recommended)  
Hugo Bedau - Thinking and Writing about Philosophy and/or  
Zachary Seech - Writing Philosophy Papers (on reserve in UNO Library)

### Course Description

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introductory study of basic philosophical concepts and problems.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** The aim of this course is to survey the history of western philosophy from its inception in ancient Greece. The focus of the course will not be on any one particular philosopher or school of thought. Rather, we will be trying to discern what it is about certain thinkers that makes them “philosophers” (or what renders certain ways of thinking “philosophical”), why other thinkers and types of discourse are not, and whether or not the distinction is justifiable. We will also be trying to figure out what effects past philosophies have on our present ways of thinking, what significance – either good or bad – that may have for contemporary societies, and whether such thinking should be encouraged or abandoned.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical issues.
- to know the various subfields of philosophy and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas.
- to know how to form arguments.
- to know the views of the pre-Socratics regarding the problem of explanations.
- to understand the philosophical issues associated with definitions.
- to identify key figures in the history of Western Thought
- to understand the nature of philosophical argumentation.
- to present and to defend your own views regarding the above issues.
- to read philosophical texts.
- to recognize philosophical questions.
- to define key concepts in philosophical thought.
- to understand the historical development of Western Philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle.

Grades will be based on a 400 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
<b>Exam 1</b>	(25%) 100 points	<b>A</b>	360 - 400 points
<b>Exam 2</b>	(25%) 100 points	<b>B</b>	320 - 359 points
<b>Exam 3</b>	(25%) 100 points	<b>C</b>	280 - 319 points
<b>Final Exam</b>	(25%) 100 points	<b>D</b>	240 - 279 points
		<b>F</b>	0 - 239 points

**READINGS:**

Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments for the course, and to complete the regular assignments on those readings.

**EXAMS:**

There will be 3 online exams on material from the reading and online lectures. These exams will consist of 50 (true/false & multiple choice) questions, with each question being worth 2 points. The final exam will consist of 100 questions, with each question worth 1 point.

Students will also be requested to pay close attention to current news issues (in order to determine the relevance of philosophy to present-day concerns and to assist in determining term paper topics).

**Grading:**

Each test will count for 25% of the overall score, and the term paper the remaining 25% – (3 exams X 25% per test = 75%) + (final exam x 25% = 25%) = 100%. An overall score of 360 = A; 320 = B; 280 = C; 240 = D; anything less = F.

Failing all tests will necessarily result in an F.

The regular assignments will decide borderline cases.

Since UNO does not use pluses and minuses, borderline cases will be determined by regular submission of assignments.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:**

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodation. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online: [http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/Policy%20Manual/judicial\\_code\\_pt2.htm](http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/Policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm)

**ATTENDANCE:** How well a student is attending to the material in this online class will be determined by their regular submission of weekly assignments (which will help to determine the overall grade in borderline cases).

**STUDENT CONDUCT/  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** Feel free to say anything to me or to your peers, but tailor your remarks so as not to be uncivil, abusive, or inappropriate. Abusive behavior, personal attacks, or name calling will not be tolerated.

**INCOMPLETES:** Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.

**MAKE-UPS:** There are no make-up exams. Exams are available for several days.

**WITHDRAWALS:** You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Withdrawal is strictly up to you and none of my business. Look in the course listings for the last day to withdraw without a penalty — a 'W' appearing on your transcript.

**PROCTORING:** *To ensure academic integrity, all students enrolled in distance learning courses at the University of New Orleans may be required to participate in additional student identification procedures. At the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course, these measures may include on-campus proctored examinations, off-site or online proctored examinations, or other reasonable measures to ensure student identity. Authentication measures for this course are identified below and any fees associated are the responsibility of the student.*

*The University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection.*

**PHIL 1000 – Spring 2015 Timeline**  
(subject to revision)

DAY	TOPIC/READING
Week 1 1/12-18	Introduction (Syllabus & What is Philosophy?) - Listen to Lectures 1 & 2
	Word to Students & Paper Topic Suggestions
Week 2 1/19-25	Myth - Read Chapter One
	Listen to Lecture 3
Week 3 1/27-2/1	Thales – Read Chapter Two (pp.10-12)
	Anaximander – Read Chapter Two (pp.12-14) Listen to Lecture 4
Week 4 2/2-8	Xenophanes – Read Chapter Two (pp.14-18)
	Listen to Lecture 5
Week 5 2/9-15	Heraclitus – Read Chapter Two (pp.19-26)
	The Pythagoreans – Read Chapter Two (pp.19-26) Listen to Lecture 6
Week 6 2/16-22	Parmenides & Zeno – Read Chapter Two (pp.26-32)
	Listen to Lecture 7
Week 7 2/23-3/1	The Atomists - Read Chapter Two (pp.32-38)
	Listen to Lecture 8
Week 8 3/2-8	<b><i>Exam 1: Chapters 1 &amp; 2</i></b> The Sophists – Read Chapter Three (pp.39-60) Listen to Lecture 9
Week 9 3/9-15	Socrates – Read Chapter Four (pp.61-72) & Chapter Five: Euthyphro (pp.73-87)
	Listen to Lecture 10
Week 10 3/16-22	Socrates' Trial & Death – Read Chapter Five: Crito, Phaedo (pp.87-118)
	Work on Term Paper
Week 11 3/23-29	Plato (The Theory of Forms) – Read Chapter Six (pp.128-142)
	Listen to Lecture 11
Week 12 3/30-4/5	Plato (The Republic) – Read Chapter Six (pp.142-153) Listen to Lecture 12

	<b><i>Exam 2: Chapters 3,4,5,6</i></b>
Week 13 4/6-12	Aristotle (The Rational Animal) – Read Chapter Seven (pp.185-198)
	Listen to Lecture 13
Week 14 4/13-19	Aristotle (The Good Life) – Read Chapter Seven (pp.185-198)
	Listen to Lecture 14
Week 15 4/20-26	The Epicureans – Read Chapter Eight (pp.199-205)
	Listen to Lecture 15
Week 16 4/27-5/3	The Stoics & Skeptics – Read Chapter Eight (pp.205-217)
	Listen to Lecture 16
Fri May 1	Term Paper Due
Tue May 4-8	Final Exam