



Full Version Syllabus

Please be sure to read all pages of the syllabus. *One of your first assignments* will be submitting a short quiz based on syllabus content.

Course & Contact Information

PHIL 1301 INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

Brazosport College Fall Session 2023

Instructor: Deborah Lariviere Email: dlariviere@brazosport.edu

Phone: 512.484.6159 Alternate email: debriver@gmail.com

(3-0) Credit: 3

This is an introductory philosophy course emphasizing various approaches to the study and organization of the world and its phenomena. We will survey many philosophical systems, and historical approaches to solving some of the most important problems regarding society, life, liberty, and humanity.

Course Materials

Approved Textbook: *The Great Conversation*, Norman Melchert & David Morrow. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-016-4959 (9th edition)

- Course materials (syllabus, some required readings, lectures and resources) will be available in the Content area of Virtual Campus. Students must obtain a textbook on their own.
- **Procedure:** *This course is offered as an INTERNET course. We will combine an examination of major historical figures and their methods with an equal portion of analyzing and writing on the topics. The assignment questions are designed to highlight connections between the requisite textbook readings, the "Essential Points" lecture outlines, and ideas that might arise concerning a particular topic. You may draw upon personal experience when composing responses to any assignment prompts. The course material will be accessible at Virtual Campus, Brazosport College's Learning Management System. Logon at www.brazosport.edu and click "Virtual Campus" link at the bottom of the Brazosport College home page. As soon as you are registered for the course and the course actually begins, you should be able to access course materials. After logging in, click on the*



*course link and go to its home page. You will find links to assignments, Virtual Campus lectures to accompany the readings for the course, and quizzes. **It is required that you have a textbook.***

- Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.
- **Office Hours:** Instructor will be available to students via Zoom, Facetime or audio call, by appointment.

Student Expectations

In order to succeed in the course, you will or need to:

- Log in often.
- Use the Syllabus as your guide.
- Ask questions - don't wait.
- View online "Essential Points" Lectures.
- Read course Materials.
- Actively participate in Discussions.
- Think critically.
- Use proper "netiquette" ([view netiquette page](#)).
- Meet all assignment and testing deadlines.
- Be self-motivated and disciplined.
- Acquire knowledge and demonstrate it during class activities.
- Work with others in a fair and respectful manner.
- **Discussion Activities:** *post in the forum area for each topic given.*
- **Discussion Participation:** *log in and check for messages or forum posts each day while the forum is active.*
- **Dropbox Activities:** **use grammar & spell check before submitting written work;** *respond to all the parts of the prompt.*
- **Reading/Study Questions:** *read over these questions prior to doing your assigned readings, and jot down the answers as you come across them in the course of your reading.*
- **PowerPoint Slideshows:** *view the slideshows, where provided.*
- **Practice Quizzes:** *take the practice quizzes in the units that offer them.*
- **Assignments:** *make sure that you stay **strictly** within the length guidelines.*



Students with Disabilities

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

Course Overview & Structure

*This is a web-based course delivered through the Virtual Campus portal at Brazosport College. This class runs on a 24/7 weekly schedule. This means that within any given week you are free to choose your own times to learn and participate. Discussions and submission of assignments will occur every week on Sunday, and in some cases during the week. Because you are not entirely on a fixed schedule **it is up to you** to develop the discipline and schedule the time to be an active learner in this environment. **You must turn in work by the due dates**, but you are welcomed to work ahead, and to budget your time according to your needs.*

*ALL materials (course and reference), communication and testing tools will be available online. You are **REQUIRED** to access the course at LEAST once a day to check for any course updates.*

There are 15 weeks in the semester, and they are broken into various units. Each unit contains a checklist noting activities which might include: discussion and dropbox requirements, essential points lectures, chapter quizzes or practice quizzes, reading/study questions, PowerPoint slideshows, and occasionally, outside resources.

Assignments: Assignments are short written compositions that involve responses to the readings. These are private responses between you and your instructor. You may be prompted to respond to the readings in various ways and to make connections between the text and any films, videos, or other materials used for the course. Please **strictly** limit yourself to the length requirements for any written submission. This will challenge you to sharpen your writing skills, and will allow the instructor to better manage her time in grading your submissions.

Things to double-check before submitting assignments: word count, grammar, spell check, make sure all the questions in the prompt have been addressed, cite sources used if other than the course textbook, make sure to keep a backup copy of the submission.



Discussions: Discussion forums allow students to interact with their peers, working to answer questions pertinent to the topic. It is expected that all participants will treat others with diplomacy & respect, and it is understood that if the instructor removes a post or comment due to inappropriate language or behaviour, then the points will be sacrificed by the offender. In order to be eligible for an "A", students must make at least one post, and comment meaningfully on at least two of their peers' posts. An alternative assignment will sometimes be provided for anyone who does not participate in a discussion by its due date; the maximum score you can receive on this alternative assignment will be 70%. Discussions can't happen without participation!

Essay: At least one short essay assignment is required for the course, and will be identified as "Essay Assignment" in the dropbox. If you quote from sources, document your source, whether it is the primary source (the textbook) or a secondary source. Do not borrow material from study guides, Wikipedia, SparkNotes or other such online resources. Do your own thinking. Proofread your essay for errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Quizzes: Some chapters will contain an assessment which is designed to ensure that one has completed the assigned reading. The assessment will cover the most important ideas presented in the chapter reading, the "*Essential Points*", the Power Point slideshows, and the practice quizzes, where applicable.

Practice Quizzes: Most chapters will contain practice quizzes. These assessments are intended to help the student internalize the unit's most important ideas. These quizzes do not calculate into the course grade, and are available to be re-taken as many times as the student would like to do until s/he feels the content has been mastered.

Optional Unit: Sometime during the semester an "optional" unit *may* be offered. This optional unit is accompanied by a quiz. The grade on this optional quiz may be used to replace a lower quiz score from earlier in the session.

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will include questions over material covered in the course. There will be a list of *Review Questions* and a discussion forum to help you prepare for the final exam, and these materials will become available later in the course.

Participation in the *Review Discussion Forum* is required.

Communication

Communication will take place using various interactive tools (Discussions, Email, Dropbox)

Instructor Response Times

I will respond to critical questions within 24-48 hours. I will be responding to regular discussion posts and email messages at least once daily, very early in the mornings, or late in the afternoons. Feel free to text me, should you require a response more quickly. If 72 hours has passed and you have not received feedback or a response from me, please alert me, for I have somehow missed your message or submission.



Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student will be able to identify fundamental ideas of thinkers such as the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Anselm, the Stoics, and Empiricists. The student will understand the significance of the great “conversation” which is the history of philosophical thought. The student will have gained insight into his/her own highest values and most dearly held beliefs. The student will be able to identify a False Dichotomy and will be able to competently discuss the Ontological Argument.

Course Schedule

The course begins August 28th and ends December 10th. The final exam must be completed by 11:59 PM on DEC 10th .

Assignment Due Dates Please make sure that your assignments are turned in according to the following schedule. You may work ahead, but be aware that feedback may not be offered until the due date for the assignment has passed.

You must have work turned in by the following deadlines:

INTRODUCTIONS Discussion Forum due SEP 1st

QUIZ: SYLLABUS due SEP 1st

Assignment: False Dichotomy & Fallacy ... due SEP 10th

QUIZ: Before Philosophy due SEP 17th

Pre-Socratics Discussion Forum..... due SEP 24th

QUIZ: Socrates due OCT 1st

QUIZ: Plato..... due OCT 8th

Assignment: Aristotle due OCT 15th

QUIZ: “Telos”due OCT 22nd

Epicureans, Stoics, Skeptics Discussion Forum due OCT 29th



Expanded QUIZ: “Anselm” due NOV 5th

QUIZ: Descartes..... due NOV 12th

Assignment: Empiricists due NOV 19th

SHORT ESSAY Trial & Death of Socrates due DEC 3rd

****REVIEW Discussion Forum** due DEC 7th **

FINAL EXAM...Available online between (12 AM) DEC 8^h – DEC 10th (11:59 PM)

****Please note the due date is not a Sunday**

Grading Criteria

Each student’s participation and performance in class will be evaluated according to their performance in the course activities described below.

Discussion/Assignments	25 percent
Quizzes	20 percent
Essays	25 percent
Final Exam	30 percent

A- 90-100 points

B- 80-89 points

C- 70-79 points

D- 60-69 points

F- 59 points or less

Student Support

- Help Desk
 - [Chat with a Helpdesk representative](#)
 - helpdesk@brazosport.edu
 - 979-230-3366
 - [Helpdesk website](#)
 - Campus Location: K.100
- Online Tutors
 - [Create an Online Tutoring Appointment](#)
 - **Help Guide:** [Create Appointment](#)



- Online Academic Advisor
 - [Chat with an Academic Advisor](#)
 - 979-230-3238 or contact the department secretary at 979-230-3237
 - [Online Counseling Services](#) website
 - Campus Location: E-Wing
- Learning Services
 - [Chat live with a Learning Service Representative](#)
 - [Proctor Testing](#)
 - 979-230-3253
 - [Learning Services website](#)
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)
- Library
 - [Chat live with a Librarian](#)
 - 979-230-3310
 - [Library website](#)
 - Campus Location: F.134
- Campus Bookstore
 - [Bookstore website](#)
 - 979-230-3410
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)
- Distance Learning
 - [Virtual Campus Manuals & Tutorials](#)
 - [Success Tips](#)
 - [Student Guide & Calendar](#) website
 - [Virtual Campus Tour Reservation](#) form
 - [Distance Learning website](#)
 - 979-230-3436

Additional [support service information](#), including Virtual Campus Accessibility information is detailed on the Distance Learning website.

When Taking an Online Course

You are currently enrolled in an online college course and will be asked to show a professional and mature attitude through the semester. The following shows what it takes to be successful in learning while taking a course that has little if no face-to-face contact with either your instructor or fellow students:

- Study time ~ 5-8 hours of study time per week
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- Tests ~



- daily modules and exercises
- be aware of quiz dates via Syllabus/Calendar/Announcements
- ask questions
- quizzes are timed
- Grades ~
 - keep track of your own grades using the grade book
 - calculate your own grades to keep track of grade requirements
 - have questions about your grade ASK immediately via email (don't wait till the mid- or end of the course)
- Instructors ~
 - DO not remind you of incomplete work or assignment dates
- Accountability ~
 - monitor your own time
 - make your own decisions about extracurricular activities
 - practice good time management strategies
 - understand YOUR responsibilities and expectations of college
 - BE prepared
 - DON'T procrastinate

Course Policies

Late Work Policy: It is expected that work will be completed on time, and submitted by the due dates. Late work will be accepted, but penalized, save for documentable extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized by ten points for each week it is late, with a maximum deduction of forty points. Any late work submitted after Nov 30th will receive a maximum score of sixty percent, no matter when it was due.

Assignments will be due on the due date by 11:59 PM (most of the assignments will be due on Sunday evenings, with only the exceptions of a handful of assignments at the start and at the end of the course). **Some assignments might be graded on the basis of “timely submission”, meaning that IF the assignment was turned in on time, AND IF the assignment meets criteria, THEN the submission receives a “100” score.** These assignments may not be given personalized feedback by the instructor, and late submissions will be graded “as-is” and will receive a penalty deduction in points. The student will not know ahead of time which assignments will be graded on “timely submission”, so it is **strongly recommended** that one turn in all assignments on time.

Another benefit of turning work in on-time is that re-writes are offered in order to achieve a higher score. If the work is late, then it will be graded “as-is”.

Plagiarism policy: Any evidence of plagiarism is ground for an “F” on the assignment and/or in the course (instructor’s discretion). See the Brazosport College Student Handbook for additional information.



Course Disclaimer

Every attempt is made to provide a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the courses. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester (only in rare instances). This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students.

College Policies

View Student Guide & Calendar (includes Student Conduct and Honor Codes) for detailed College Policy information: <http://www.brazosport.edu/students/for-students/student-services/>

Online Student Conduct

- Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they “fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC.” Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity.
- Breaches of conduct include:
 - Misconduct
 - Cheating on a Test
 - Plagiarism
 - Collusion

Academic Honesty

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in a failing grade on a given assignment or in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.



Artificial Intelligence Disclaimer (Use of AI)

Students **ARE NOT** permitted to utilize artificial intelligence programs to complete the assignments. Everything needed to compose one's short written treatises is provided in the course materials and the course textbook. Use of AI assistance in composing written work will result in a zero being assigned for the unit.

Students with Disabilities

Special Needs & Accessibility

BC is committed to quality education and to providing equal educational opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities. Contact Phil Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

Title IX Statement

- Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303;
mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

Student Privacy

Brazosport College is committed to providing services and support to meet your needs and achieve your educational goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. For information regarding the confidentiality of student records please view the [Brazosport College Distant Learning Student Privacy Statement](#). For additional information related to Student Privacy contact the Registrar (979-230-3010).

Brazosport College's online courses may contain resources which link to other websites outside of the Brazosport College system. Brazosport College is not responsible for the privacy practices of these external websites. Brazosport College does not screen the content of any third party



websites and is not responsible for their content. Please refer to the third party website privacy policy for specific information.

Withdrawals

Withdrawal from a course is, first and foremost, the student's responsibility. An instructor may process an "administrative withdrawal" on a student for excessive absences.

However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure, prior to the deadline for withdrawal, that he/she has been officially withdrawn. Because you stop attending a class, does not mean that you have officially withdrawn from the class.

- **Campus Closure Statement:**

Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postponed if such orders are given.

Copyright Policy

The [Digital Millennium Copyright Act \(DMCA\)](#) updates copyright law for the online (digital) environment. All information posted within the Virtual Campus is copyrighted under this and previous copyright law. No material can be used or redistributed without permission from Brazosport College.

[Alternative legal sources are available](#) for use by faculty and students including books, music, and movies. There is also [our campus library](#) which has a variety of existing licensed and subscription based materials for use. Go to [CopyRight@BC](#) for additional information and resources dealing with copyright, practices, and procedures.

