Instructor: Marta D. Kunecka, Ph.D.

E-mail: kuneckm@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: Office Hours: BC 223; MW 12-12.30

email for appointment

**Linn-Benton Community College**

**Benton Center, Room 244**

**Winter 2017 MW 12.30-1.50**

**PHL 201 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (3)**

**Course Description**

In this course we will use reflective and critical reading, thinking, writing, and discussion to explore the methods and ideas of ancient and modern philosophy. The course focuses on the nature of reality, free will, determinism, the existence of God, knowledge, ethics, the nature of personhood, and whether or not there is a meaning in life. It features such important figures as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, James, and Sartre. Prepares students for other classes in Philosophy and Religion.

**Performance Based learner outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Conduct close, critical readings of difficult philosophical texts.
2. Critically appreciate and be able to articulate competing theories of the nature of reality, free will, determinism, God, knowledge, ethics, and personhood.
3. Assess the cogency of arguments in general, and especially, of arguments in philosophy.
4. Develop and articulate a reasonably coherent and well-supported personal worldview.
5. Use Philosophy to better understand and address personal, social, and political problems.
6. Use various forms of written and verbal discussion to articulate understanding and practical application of various aspects of Philosophy.
7. Write coherent essays using textual support, documentation (where applicable), and standard grammar/mechanics.
8. Thoughtfully and respectfully engage those who hold a different philosophical worldview.

**Participation and attendance**

\* Students must participate to receive credit for each day’s class (arrive on time, complete in-class assignments, follow instructions, etc.). **It is your responsibility to sign up the presence list each time you come to class!**

\* Please do not email me if you can’t come to class from any other reasons then the medical ones (e.g. you can’t start your car, you need to take your grandma shopping etc.)

\* You are responsible for your learning process as much as for your work. Keep copies of assignments and “back up” your computer files. If absent, make sure to obtain notes from another student.

\* Check LBCC email regularly as it is the instructor’s first point of contact. You may also want to check Instructor’s website since there may be some updated information during the term.

\* Incomplete grades are only an option for students who have finished at least 80 percent of the course work with a passing grade and are facing an emergency that prevents them from finishing the class. Requests for incompletes must be made to the instructor in writing.

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\* Emergency. A policy exception may be made is if a student has kept in close contact with an instructor during an emergency, though that does not guarantee an exception.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if:

* You have a documented disability and need accommodations,
* Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or
* You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must complete a Request for Accommodations form every term in order to receive accommodations.

**STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to conform to all standards in Linn-Benton CC Student Handbook. This includes practicing both personal and academic integrity. Students are to respect the rights of all people and contribute to a safe, cooperative and respectful learning atmosphere.

**Respect.** We will maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect. Cell phones will be silenced during class unless arrangements are made with the instructor. There will be no text messaging, no headphones, no Ipods, no laptops except for note taking. One person talks at a time. To learn and grow together, people must feel free to share and explore ideas in a safe, open setting. Disagreement is fine, but it must be intelligent, considerate, and respectful. If a student is disruptive and/or disrespectful, the student will be removed.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. Students at Linn-Benton Community College are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are intentional or unintentional. Consequences for cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty may include receiving a score of zero on an individual assignment or failing the class.

If at any time you are not sure about the legitimacy of your writing, ask your instructor for clarification. Note: students may be required to turn in copies of any source they use.

**ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

\*One-on-one conferences with the instructor may be required.

\*Students who do not contact the instructor prior to the start of the second class may be dropped per Linn-Benton Community College’s No Show Drop policy.

\*Students may be required to submit electronic copies of their essays to their instructor for examination with Safe Assign and/or other plagiarism detection software.

**Final Grade**

Participation/attendance 20% 200 points

In class activities 20% 200 points

TEST # 1 20% 200 points

TEST # 2 20% 200 points

Term Paper 20% 200 points

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

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

**Assignment Expectations**

**Readings** are due at the beginning of class. Come to class ready to discuss and engage the material. There will be large and small group discussions, in-class writings, formal essays, and reading quizzes (that cannot be made up).

**Essay** is due online by noon on the date due (unless arranged differently in class). Late essays will not be accepted. No emailed essays accepted unless arranged by the instructor. Essay topics will be assigned in class.

**Tests** will be taken on the day scheduled unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor; otherwise, a zero will be earned. The tests will be composed of multiple choise questions, matching terms, definitions or essay questions.

**REQUIRED TEXT** Available at the LBCC bookstore.

White, T. I. ***Discovering Philosophy,*** Second Edition.

Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2008.

**WINTER 2017 Schedule**

**Week One *What is Philosophy?***

Jan 9th Introductions, Syllabus, Expectations,

Jan 11th White: 1-14 What is Philosophy?

White, 15-35, Critical Thinking

**Week Two *Logic- what is the value of clear thinking?***

Jan 16th NO Class - Martin Luther King Day

Jan 18th White, 36-55, Logical Fallacies

**Week Three *Ethics- what is the right thing to do?***

Jan 23rd White, 117-156, Ethics and morality

Jan 25th White, 157-181, Why be ethical?

**Week Four *Metaphysics – what is reality?***

Jan 30th White, 217-234, The Nature of Reality

Feb 1st White, 235-248, Materialism vs Idealism

**Week Five**

Feb 6th Brief Review Session (optional documentary)

Feb 8th TEST # 1 (weeks 1-4)

**Week Six *Epistemology- how do we know what we know?***

Feb 13th White, 249-261, Rationalism and the Mind

Feb 15th White 261-281, Empiricism and the Senses

**Week Seven *Are there limits to our freedom?***

Feb 20th No Class – President’s Day

Feb 22nd White, 57-84, Determinism

**Week Eight *Religion and Philosophy***

Feb 27th White, 85-115, The Case for Freedom

Mar 1st White, 283-308, Question of God

**Week Nine**

Mar 6th White, 328-339, West meets East

Mar 8th Surprise Movie TERM PAPER due

**Week Ten**

Mar 13th Review Session

Mar 15th **TEST # 2** (weeks 5-9)

\*I reserve the right to modify this schedule at any time and introduce changes in the course.

It is a responsible student’s obligation to be aware of the changes announced during the term