



Steve Aspenson, Ph.D.
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PHIL 1301-1203 (Class #13884): Introduction to Philosophy
Lone Star College—North Harris
Academic Building, Room 220
6pm-7:20pm TTh
Spring 2019

Instructor Name: Steve Aspenson

Phone Number: Cell 612-804-6464 (text or call)

Website: www.philosophicaladvisor.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30-6pm, and by appointment

Faculty Bio: PhD Philosophy, University of Iowa; BS in Biology and Philosophy, UW-La Crosse. Publications include articles in ethics, medieval philosophy, philosophy of religion, and a textbook, *The Philosopher's Tool Kit*. In graduate school I emphasized medieval philosophy and ethical theory.

General Description: This course examines major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts
- Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems and terminology in philosophy.
- Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
- Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

Prerequisite:

College-level readiness in reading and writing.

REQUIRED TEXTS: None. Readings are public domain, online.

Course Procedures

This course has a standard, on-ground lecture format. The lectures can be heard as often as you like using audio-PowerPoints files available on my personal website for download, 24/7. Those files are very large, so,

anyone with a slow home Internet connection can bring a thumb drive to school to download them. There may be some informal, spontaneous small-group activities in class.

Grading Procedures:

200pts from 5 of 6 quizzes at 40 points each (I drop your lowest quiz automatically)

75pts from class participation and attendance

100pts midterm exam (You must take this exam to pass the course)

125pts final exam (You must take this exam to pass the course)

500 total points

100% - 90% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

55% - 69% D

0% - 54% F

Course Schedule, from our class website: www.philosophicaladvisor.com

1/15-17	Informal Logic	
1/22-24	Informal Logic 2	Practice Quiz Answer Explanation
1/29-31	Allegory of the Cave	Quiz 1: Informal Logic 1/31
2/5-7	Analogy of the Sun	
2/12-14	Hobbes' Leviathan	Quiz 2: Cave, Sun 2/14
2/19-21	Hobbes Excerpts	
2/26-28	Aristotle Virtue Ethics	Quiz 3: Hobbes 2/28
3/5-7	Aristotle Excerpts	Midterm Exam 3/7
3/12-14	SPRING BREAK	
3/19-21	Utilitarianism	
3/26-28	Descartes Meditations - Foundationalism	Quiz 4: Aristotle & Utilitarianism 3/26
4/2-4	Locke Berkeley Hume	
4/9-11	Phenomenology / Existentialism	Quiz 5: Skepticism 4/11
4/16-18	Naturalized Epistemology	
4/23-25	Reformed Epistemology	
4/30-5/2	Review 5/2	Quiz 6: Three Worldviews 4/30 Dropped low score + participation
5/7	Final 5:30pm-7:20pm	Final Grades

Other requirements:

- If you do not have access to your own computer with reliable internet service, you may use the computers in the student Learning Centers at any of the LSCS Campuses. For more information, go to <http://www.lonestar.edu/learning-centers.htm>. Be sure to note their open hours so that you may adjust your schedule to meet any deadlines.
- If you haven't already, you will need to **activate your MyLonestar student e-mail account**. All announcements and official correspondence will go through that e-mail. Check daily.

Course Structure and Content: Due to the fluid nature of teaching, the instructor may change due dates, reading assignments, total points for assignments, and course structure as is deemed necessary by the instructor. Changes may be necessary due to weather, unanticipated but necessary needs of the class, and other factors. Any complaints about the class structure, material, myself or other students should be addressed to me outside of class in a separate appointment or via e-mail. Any unresolved issues after that may be addressed to the Chair for English, Philosophy and Journalism, Dr. Steve Sansom, ESteve.Sansom@lonestar.edu or 281-618-5576.

Attendance Policy: Seventy-five points are available for participation and attendance. Perfect attendance will earn you all those available points. Less than perfect attendance scores can be improved by the quantity and quality of your in-class questions and comments.

Make-ups: See me about making up missed quizzes. You are permitted one penalty free makeup quiz, thereafter there is a 5pt penalty. Missing the midterm without prior arrangements carries a 10pt penalty.

- **Withdrawal from the Class:** It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class if she or he needs to do so. The official withdrawal schedule can be found in the Lone Star College System credit schedule. Depending on the date you withdraw, you may be eligible to have all or part of your tuition payment reimbursed. You also may be able to avoid the possibility of receiving an "F" in the course at the end of the semester, and ruining your Grade Point Average, if you withdraw appropriately from a course you no longer intend to complete.
- **6 – Drop Rule**
Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of "W") from more than six courses. This six-course limit includes courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education if they fall under the law.

Campus Carry Statement:

The Texas Legislature enacted campus carry by passing Senate Bill 11, effective at LSC on August 1, 2017. Senate Bill 11, known as the "Campus Carry" law, amends Texas law to allow license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. To carry a concealed handgun on LSC campuses, an individual must have a valid License to Carry issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

LSC has established rules and regulation regarding enforcement of Campus Carry. Lone Star College prohibits concealed carry in some areas of LSC campuses. For more information about Campus Carry, visit the LSC Campus Carry website at <http://www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry> .

Emergency Notification Information

Lone Star College System (LSCS) is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting any of our campuses. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/oem> for details on registration and other information. In the event of an emergency contact LSCS Police at (281) 290-5911 or X5911.

ADA Statement (2017)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that requires accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the LSC-North Harris Disability Services Office as soon as possible (Winship 120, 281-765-7940). Disability Services will provide you with documentation I need to provide your accommodation(s). Failure to handle this in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Lone Star College System Equal Opportunity Statement: A copy of this Equal Opportunity statement can be found in the Lone Star College System Credit Schedule and/or Catalog.

Lone Star College System is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. Lone Star College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, nationality or ethnicity in its programs and activities.

Academic Integrity:

A copy of this Academic Integrity Statement can be found in the Lone Star College System Credit Schedule and/or Catalog.

Lone Star College upholds the core values of learning: honesty, respect, fairness, and accountability. LSC promotes the importance of personal and academic honesty. LSC embraces the belief that all learners - students, faculty, staff and administrators - will act with integrity and honesty and must produce their own work and give appropriate credit to the work of others. Fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is not permitted on any work submitted within the system.

The consequences for academic dishonesty are determined by the professor, or the professor and academic dean, or the professor and chief student services officer and can include but are not limited to:

- Having additional class requirements imposed,
- Receiving a grade of zero or F for an exam or assignment,
- Receiving a grade of F for the course,
- Being withdrawn from the course or program,
- Being expelled from the college system.

Professors should clearly document how the student's actions violated the academic integrity policy, how a grade was calculated, and the actions taken.

Enforcement of Policies: The intent and goal of these standards is to create an environment of fairness and academic responsibility. Our assumption is that by giving students the same learning materials, using the same tests, and allowing the same opportunities for earning points, we are thereby giving students equal opportunity within the context of the classroom. Do not approach the instructor to increase your grade or receive an exception by use of minor excuses or emotional coercion.