**PHI 2010: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
*CONTRIBUTED BY PROFESSOR JOSHUA KIMBER*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
This course is an introduction to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, and specific problems in philosophy. The relationship between philosophy, society, religion and culture will also be examined.

**REQUIRED TEXT**  

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES**  
The objectives of this course include: familiarity with philosophical terms, figures, and themes; increased ability to effectively and responsibly address philosophical issues pertinent to one’s life through problem solving, critical thinking, questioning, dialogue, and writing; and assessment of one’s own beliefs and their implications. This exposure to philosophy ultimately offers an opportunity for an enhanced awareness of one’s own life, and one’s relation to others and the world. Upon successful completion of this course, students shall be able to:

  - Define philosophy, identify its main branches and methods, and differentiate philosophy from other intellectual endeavors in both writing and class discussions.
  - Identify and critically read classic texts representing the major theories of knowledge, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, free will, moral philosophy, and the history of philosophy; evaluate merits of classical philosophical arguments and critique traditional approaches to epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, free will, moral philosophy, and the history of philosophy; and analyze the major theories in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, free will, moral philosophy, and the history of philosophy, in both writing and class discussion.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**  
To make the most of this course, students are expected to read and study the text when and as assigned, complete all assignments, quizzes, tests and projects, and participate in class discussions, dialogue and inquiry. Students are also required to have the following materials to participate effectively in class:

  - One pack of index cards 3” x5” (ideally: lines on one side & blank on the other, or blank on both sides)
  - A notebook with paper to complete in-class assignments and to store materials printed from D2L and returned assignments

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**  
As a student in this class, you will complete independent reading and writing; you will participate in in-class group discussions, exercises, and assignments; and you will complete assessments. The instructor will facilitate assessments and in-class discussions, exercises, and assignments, and will provide lecture presentations on the main topics explored in class. The instructor will also engage the class in question and answer sessions to assess comprehension of class material and facilitate deeper understanding of course concepts. You will also participate in exercises outside of class, including discussions and homework activities. In addition, you will be responsible for completing assignments and posting in discussions via D2L each week.

**BLENDED CLASS**  
This class will operate as a “blended class,” which means some work will be completed and submitted online via D2L and some work will be completed and submitted during class meeting dates (see the top of this syllabus for class meeting dates). Regular participation in the D2L discussion space and attendance at all class meetings is required. **NOTE: Staying on track in this blended class will require good time management and a proactive approach to HW & reading.**

**CRITICAL THINKING FOCUS & CRITICAL THINKING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)**  
The activities and assignments in this class have been designed to place particular emphasis on the practice of critical thinking. In addition to applying critical thinking skills throughout all course assignments and activities, students in this section of Introduction to Philosophy will apply critical thinking to their practice of critical thinking. That is, students will analyze, explain, evaluate, and then formulate conclusions about their own critical thinking process. This will be done most specifically through the completion of ongoing “Critical Thinking Self-Assessment” homework assignments and the creation of a “Critical Thinking Toolkit.” Students will work on these throughout the term and will share them with other students in class.
Broward College’s Definition of Critical Thinking:
To support Broward College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), critical thinking is defined as a process of evaluating information by questioning and testing assumptions, accepting and rejecting arguments and/or perspectives, and applying reasoning to make informed decisions.

Critical Thinking Learning Outcomes Statements:
Goal 1: The QEP will enhance students’ critical thinking skills.
Students will be able to:
   - **Explain** questions, problems, and/or issues
   - **Analyze** and interpret relevant information
   - **Evaluate** information to determine potential conclusions
   - **Generate** a well-reasoned conclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Thinking Student Learning Outcome (SLO)</th>
<th>Teaching &amp; Learning Experiences/ Activities/ Assignments</th>
<th>Elements of Thought (ET) and/or Intellectual Standards (IS) (specific features applied)</th>
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</table>
| 1.1. **Explain** questions, problems, and/or issues | - Homework completion  
  - Mini-quizzes: prep & responses  
  - Group Projects 1 & 2 (Cooperative Learning Groups)  
  - Critical Thinking Self-Assessment  
  - Critical Thinking Toolkit  
  - In-class Case-based Scenarios | (ET): Concepts: theories, definitions, laws, principles, models; Question at issue: problem, issue  
  (IS): Depth, Breadth |
| 1.2. **Analyze** and interpret relevant information | - Homework completion  
  - Mini-quizzes: prep & responses  
  - Group Projects (Cooperative Learning Groups)  
  - Critical Thinking Self-Assessment  
  - In-class Case-based Scenarios | (ET): Information: data, facts, reasons, observations, experiences, evidence  
  (IS) Clarity, Accuracy, Precision, Relevance |
| 1.3. **Evaluate** information to determine potential conclusions | - Homework in-class “think, pair, square, & share”  
  - Group Projects 1 & 2 (Cooperative Learning Groups)  
  - Critical Thinking Self-Assessment  
  - In-class Case-based Scenarios  
  - Short Answer Test Responses | (ET): Purpose: goals, objectives; Interpretation and Inference: conclusions, solutions; Assumptions: presuppositions, axioms, taking for granted; Implications and Consequences  
  (IS): Relevance; Significance, Fairness; Logic |
| 1.4. **Generate** a well-reasoned conclusion | - Homework in-class “think, pair, square, & share”  
  - Group Projects 1 & 2 (Cooperative Learning Groups)  
  - Critical Thinking Self-Assessment  
  - Critical Thinking Toolkit  
  - In-class Case-based Scenarios  
  - Short Answer Test Responses | (ET): Interpretation and Inference: conclusions, solutions; Concepts: theories, definitions, laws, principles, models; Implications and Consequences  
  (IS): Significance, Fairness; Logic |
Critical Thinking Resources/References to be used in the completion of the Critical Thinking Self-Assessment & Critical Thinking Toolkit:


**Class Attendance**

Attendance is required and will be recorded every class session. If you will not be able to attend a class, or if you will miss part of a class, please let the instructor know via email. Written documentation is required to establish an excused absence. Student is responsible for all assignments, homework, quizzes, and course content completed within and/or assigned during any missed class time. Missing class will result in a decreased participation grade and the loss of points for the day (including mini-quiz points). Missing part of a class (arriving late or leaving early) may count as missing entire class. Leaving early will result in the loss of some or all mini-quiz points for the day. There will be no re-takes for missed mini-quizzes or the midterm or final tests. Missing group projects or assignments will result in the loss of at least 20% of the assignment value. For each class missed after the first absence, the overall course grade will be reduced by 5% in addition to other missed points. Also see the “Withdrawal Policy” section of the syllabus for additional attendance information. **If you think you may miss any classes (or parts of classes), speak to the instructor on the first day.**

**Course Evaluation**

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Daily Homework (15%) &amp; Participation (10%)</td>
<td>(online &amp; in-class: HW is to be completed by the start of each class &amp; submitted via D2L or before class begins) Demonstrate achievement of Course Objectives in written work and regular class discussions for full credit. Check-plus = 95%, check = 85%, check-minus = 75%; L=HW is submitted after the start of class or one day late for 25% reduced score, LL = HW is one week late for 50% reduced score. Participation includes: attendance, active engagement (as opposed to being distracted in conversation, on devices, or otherwise), on-time submission of assignments, quality of contributions on homework and in class (high quality = good application of course content and achievement of Course Objectives), participation in class and small-group discussions (as assessed by instructor and/or peers), quality end-of-lesson reflections and/or “elevator pitches.”</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>D2L Discussion</td>
<td>(ongoing via D2L – at least 2 high-quality posts per discussion unit – see below) Ask genuine questions and strive to share and refine your own understanding. Demonstrate achievement of course objectives/outcomes in your posts. Ask questions that demonstrate advanced understanding of course content. Use course terms regularly and make direct reference to course content in discussions. Demonstrate problem-solving skills and critical thinking in D2L discussions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Daily Mini-Quizzes</td>
<td>(online &amp; in-class: given each day; based on previous class and assigned readings) Demonstrate content-mastery through multiple-choice, short answer, or other assignment-related quizzes. Mini-quiz points for the day will be reduced due to arriving late, leaving early, or lack of active engagement in class (see participation section above). Online portion must be completed before start of class &amp; will only count if corresponding in-class portion is completed and a score of 75% or greater is achieved.</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>(given in class as indicated on course outline) Demonstrate achievement of Course Objectives and content-mastery through multiple-choice and short answer questions. Missing the test without validated excuse will result in penalties up to 50% of the test grade. Leaving the room during the test will result in additional required short answer questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Group Projects</td>
<td>(details provided separately) Demonstrate achievement of Course Objectives and critical thinking practice. Missing the in-class portion will result in losing at least 30% of the project grade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
<td>(details included separately in this syllabus)</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>(given in class as indicated on course outline) Demonstrate achievement of Course Objectives and content-mastery through multiple-choice and/or short answer questions and/or a special project. The final cannot be re-taken unless missed because of a documented, excused absence. Leaving the room during the test will result in additional required short answer questions.</td>
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(Late work may be accepted for decreased credit at the instructor’s discretion.)
D2L DISCUSSION DETAILS

1 Posts and 1 Reply (minimum) are required in EACH FORUM in the D2L Discussion Space.

Discussion and inquiry are central to the practice of philosophy. In our class, discussions will serve several purposes, and you will be expected to actively participate in the discussion boards on a regular basis. Each discussion period, you will be responsible for a minimum of 2 posts/replies to receive a grade. You should also read at least 5 other posts in the D2L period between live classes. To receive maximum points in a discussion unit, several additional posts will be expected. Completing the minimum number of posts will only be worth up to ¾ the total points possible for online participation. Posts are due within one week of the corresponding HW is due.

High-quality initial posts are typically one paragraph long (7-10 sentences). They incorporate concepts from class and concepts from the critical thinking resources identified on this syllabus. They also pose high-quality questions. Often, you may be able to use one of your HW responses for your initial post (this is permissible).

High-quality replies are typically 3-5 sentences. They incorporate concepts from class and ask questions that help identify assumptions, clarify main points, make connections with other concepts, and identify how additional points of view may contribute to the initial post.

Share the reasons for your views as you attempt to understand the source of your beliefs and how they relate to the beliefs of your peers. Each participant is responsible for helping to uphold an environment characterized by intellectual safety, in which community members feel free to share opinions and beliefs without fear of negative repercussions. Here, the objective is to identify and understand the diverse opinions held by the class, not to win an argument.

Enjoy the discussions and make valuable contributions. Use that space to continue in-class discussions and to share relevant links and resources with the class.

EXTRA-ASSIGNMENT POLICY

The instructor may offer bonus questions on quizzes, tests and homework and/or optional assignments that will count toward grade improvement. Such offerings will be made available to the entire class.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students’ non-attendance will be reported. If, for 4 classes (or 1/6 of our overall in-class time; whichever is less), you stop attending class, participating in class discussions, submitting assignments or fail to take quizzes or tests, etc., prior to the withdrawal date (see Broward College Calendars) you may be administratively withdrawn from class and receive a W or if it is your third attempt, an F. If you stop participating in class and do not withdraw yourself through the proper channels before the withdrawal date, you will receive an F in the course. To avoid this situation, you should remain an active learner in this class and always communicate extenuating circumstances to the instructor. Ongoing communication with the instructor is critical to your course success. Your attendance, completion of tests, assignments, and other class activities will be used as indicators of your participation in order to satisfy this federal reporting requirement.

WRITING CREDIT

Writing credit assignments are embedded in the course material. If you pass this course with a “C” or better, you will receive writing credit.

WRITING CENTER

The Central Campus Writing Center provides a friendly, helpful atmosphere in which students can review their writing skills and receive help with composition skills and research techniques. The Writing Center is located in Building 17, Room 241.

D2L

We will use D2L regularly in this course to convey information, distribute assignments, submit the writing assignment, email, etc. You will need your Broward login information. Check the “Announcements” for updates regarding assignments, class meetings, extra credit opportunities, and adjustments/additions to the course outline.
**SPECIAL NEEDS**
Students having special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should: Inform the instructor and contact the Office of Disability Services on Central Campus at 954.201.6527 at the start of the term, so that reasonable and appropriate accommodations can be implemented.

**BC SAFETY PHONE #**
954-201-HELP (4357)

**COURSE OUTLINE**
Assigned chapters in DCH, *Does the Center Hold?*, will be covered on the day indicated. Readings and assignments for that chapter should be completed for that day. Instructor may assign additional readings and/or adjust the reading schedule at any time by making announcements in class and/or on D2L. Review the “Announcements” in D2L regularly to stay current on any updates.

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<td>Welcome! &amp; Introduction</td>
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| DCH 1: Is Philosophy Possible? |
| **D2L:** Due before start of class: |
| - HW1A via D2L |
| (remember contribute to Discussion Forum 1) |

| DCH 2: Rationalist Epistemology & DCH1: Is Philosophy Possible? continued |
| **D2L:** Due before the start of class: |
| - HW1B via D2L |
| - MQ 1 via D2L |
| (remember contribute to Discussion Forum 1) |

**Holiday - No Class**

| DCH 2: Rationalist Epistemology (continued) (Plato & Descartes) |
| **D2L:** Due before the start of class: |
| - HW2 via D2L |
| - MQ 2 via D2L & Discussion |
**AND**

| DCH 3: Empiricist Epistemology (Locke, Berkeley, Hume, & Kant) |
| **D2L:** Due before the start of class: |
| - HW3 via D2L |
| - MQ 3 via D2L |
| - D2L Discussion |

**Group Project 1 In-class Inquiry**

| DCH 5: Philosophy of Religion |
| & Review Material for Midterm Test |
| **D2L:** Due before the start of class: |
| - HW4 via D2L |
| - MQ 4 via D2L |
| - Group Project 1 Write-up Due via D2L |
| - Discussion |

**Midterm Test**
In-class Inquiry Activity with Baraka OR Prep for Political & Social Philosophy

| DCH 9: Political & Social Philosophy |
| **D2L:** Due before the start of class: |
| - HW5 via D2L |
| - MQ 5 via D2L |
| - D2L Discussion |

**Writing Assignment Due by 6:00 AM (via D2L)**

| DCH 4: Ontology |
| **DCH 6: Philosophy of Freedom** |

**Due In Class:** Printed Copy of Writing Assignment:
- Include completed Essay Self-Reflection Sheet

Topics continued from Monday (and we'll begin discussing Ethics)
--- **D2L**: Due before the start of class:  
- HW6 via D2L  
- MQ 6 via D2L  
- D2L Discussion  

**DCH 7**: Ethics  
& **DCH 8**: Critiques of Traditional Ethical Theories  

--- **D2L**: Due before the start of class:  
- HW7 via D2L  
- MQ 7 via D2L  
- D2L Discussion  

**DCH 10**: Philosophy of Art & Asian Thought  
Review for Final Test  
Conduct **Group Project 2** & Critical Thinking Reflection  

--- **D2L**: Due before the start of class:  
- HW8 via D2L  
- MQ 8 via D2L  
- D2L Discussion  

**Final Test - In-class Portion**  
--- **D2L**: Due before the start of class: Final Take-home Portion  
Course Synthesis & Looking Forward with Philosophy  
& Topics continued from before the final  
In-class Inquiry Activity with Contemporary Issues  

--- **D2L**: Due before the start of class:  
- Critical Thinking Application Assignment  

This syllabus and the course outline may be modified by the instructor at any time during the course. Notification of changes will be made in class and/or on D2L in the “Announcements.”

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**  
Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, and any other misrepresentation of work) is a violation of BC's Student Code of Conduct Procedures. Any and all submitted assignments or writing may be checked by programs like turnitin.com. According to the Student Code of Conduct, “breaches of the College's policies pertaining to academic dishonesty may result in academic penalties and/or disciplinary action at the discretion of the instructor. Academic penalties may include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for a particular assignment or a failing grade for a particular course. Additionally, the student may be referred to the chief student affairs officer of the campus/center for violations of the student Code of Conduct.” Please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct Procedures. In this class, cases of plagiarism may be referred to the Dean of Students, and anyone referred to that authority will have to complete paperwork assigned by the instructor and demonstrate proof of meeting with the dean in order to pass the class. Failure to complete such paperwork and demonstrate such proof will result in an F grade in the class. Any plagiarized work will receive a grade of 0. In cases of suspected plagiarism, the student may have to complete additional work at the discretion of the instructor and/or plagiarism assessments to validate the originality of the work. This problem is simple to avoid: don't plagiarize.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**  
By remaining in this class beyond the refund date, you indicate that you understand and agree to the terms set forth in this syllabus and the BC student code of conduct. The instructor reserves the right to make individual adjustments and accommodation to promote student success and enhance the achievement of course objectives and outcomes.

**CELL PHONES AND MP3 PLAYERS:**  
While in class, devote your energy to participation, critical thinking, and active listening. As a display of self-respect for your own learning, and as a courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, please refrain from the use of cell phones and MP3 players during class. Use of cell phones and/or MP3 players during class may result in additional assignments for the user, and will result in loss of participation and/or mini-quiz points :-(

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