

Lincoln University
Course Syllabus

HUM 30 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

3 units (45 lecture hours)

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Fikre Tolossa
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An analysis of human experience in relation to the world; the problems of reality, thought and value. Studies the major movements, methods, and terminology of philosophical thinking. (3 units)

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisites or co-requisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To introduce students to the terminology, methods, major movements and ideas of the philosophical tradition.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should come out of this course with a solid understanding of the “Basic Ideas” listed at the end of each chapter.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. Students are required to write a term paper. Topic and format will be given during the course of the semester. The midterm, final, and term-paper are worth 1/3 of the total grade each.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

100 Philosophers: A Guide to the World's Greatest Thinkers, by Peter J. King (2013). ISBN-13: **978-0785830221**, ISBN-10: **0785830227**

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:

Heaven To Eden, by Dr. Fikre Tolossa (2015), Strategic Book Publishing and Rights Co., ISBN- 978-1-61204-864-2 (to be read in class while discussing metaphysics and Christian philosophy.) This book, which is written in rhyming dramatic verse in the tradition of Dante, Goethe, and John Milton, makes philosophy simple by presenting complex metaphysical questions and the philosophies of Heraclitus, Desacrtes, Hegel, and Marx, for instance in a reader-friendly manner.

Questions that matter: An invitation to philosophy, by Ed. Miller, McGraw-Hill (2005), 3rd Edition. ISBN-13: **978-0072975017**, ISBN-10: **0072975016**

Philosophy in Minutes, by Marcus Weeks (2014). ISBN-13: **978-1623653378**, ISBN-10: **1623653371**

Weekly readings of primary sources on reserve in the library will also be required.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: Course will be taught through lecture with the final third of every class session devoted to student discussion of the texts assigned. Students are to read the assigned chapters before each class. They are to come to class on time. They are to take careful notes in class and hand-in the term paper on time. Moreover, students will be divided into groups to undertake independent research on any given philosopher and present the outcome in class.

TOPICAL OUTLINE: Course will consider the major themes of philosophy, each from a rich variety of approaches.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: What is philosophy Chapter 1
 WEEK 2: A Little Logic Chapter 2
 WEEK 3: The First Metaphysicians Chapter 3
 WEEK 4: The Idea of Form Chapter 4
 WEEK 5: Mind and Matter Chapter 5
 WEEK 6: Idealism Chapter 6
 WEEK 7: Materialism Chapter 7
 WEEK 8: Skepticism Chapter 8
 WEEK 9: The Way of Reason Chapter 9
 WEEK 10: The Way of Experience Chapter 10
 WEEK 11: The Problem of Certainty / Midterm Exam Chapter 11
 WEEK 12: God and the World and Evil Chapters 12, 15
 WEEK 13: God and Reason Chapter 13
 WEEK 14: Religious Experience Chapter 14
 WEEK 15: Liberalism vs. Marxism Chapter 21
 WEEK 16: Final Examination

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Point/Grade Conversion

100-95 A 76-74 C

94-90 A- 73-70 C-

89-87 B+ 69-65 D+

86-84 B 64-60 D

83-80 B- 59 or < F

79-77 C+

Class Participation = 10%

Term Paper = 30%

Mid-term Exam = 30%

Final Exam = 30%

Revised: 01/12/2018