



Lincoln University

HUM 30 – Introduction to Philosophy

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2019

- Instructor:** Dr. Fikre Tolossa, PhD.
Lecture Schedule: Thursday, 12:30 PM – 3:15
Credits: 3 units / 45 lecture hours
Level: Introductory (I)
Office Hours: By appointment
e-mail: fiktolo@gmail.com
Phone: (510) 478- 8659
- Textbooks:** *100 Philosophers: A Guide to the World's Greatest Thinkers*, by Peter J. King (2013).
ISBN-13: **978-0785830221**, ISBN-10: **0785830227**
- Supplementary Reading:** *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**
- Last Revision:** January 1, 2019

CATALOG 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

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

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

This is a direct classroom instruction course.

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.

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

Assignments and projects require students to actively use resources of the library. Detailed guide to business *resources of the library* as well as the description of Lincoln University approach to *information literacy* are available at the [Center for Teaching and Learning](http://ctl.lincolnuca.edu) website (ctl.lincolnuca.edu).

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.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Class Participation = 10%

Term Paper = 30%

Mid-term Exam = 30%

Final Exam = 30%

Total course points: 100 pts.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
Points	97-100	93-97	80-92	70-79	60-69	50-59	48-49	46-47	44-45	42-43	0-42

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

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	