Instructor Information

Instructor:  Joseph John  
Office:  CHARTS 430  
Mailbox:  CHARTS Fine Arts and Humanities Office  
Hours:  MW 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
  T TH 9:30-10:30 AM, 1:30-2:30 PM  
  Friday by appt.  
Phone:  501-771-6025  
Email:  jjohn@uaptc.edu

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.*

Chair:  Barry McVinney  501-812-2383  bmcvinney@uaptc.edu  
Dean:  Christy Oberste  501-812-2869  coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.*

Course Information

Section 03S:  MW 9:25 AM -10:40 AM, CHARTS 301

Catalog Description:  Introduction to Philosophy (3 Hours)

This course is an examination of basic philosophical topics including the nature of reality and knowledge, human values and critical thinking. Both historical and contemporary readings are included in the course content.

PREREQUISITE:  Students enrolled in PHIL 1310 must meet one of the following requirements:

- Completion of DEVE 0324 (Composition Fundamentals) with a grade of "C" or better  
- A score of 19 or above on the English section of the ACT  
- A score of 75 or above on the COMPASS Writing Placement Test  
- A score of 50 or above on the Accuplacer Writing Placement Test

Course Materials

2.  Computer Access:  It is important that you have access to your UA-PTC email and Blackboard. You will be required to submit work on Blackboard. In addition, some extra readings and copies of PowerPoint notes and other class handouts will be provided through Blackboard.
Mission Statement: University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Department / Program Learning Outcomes

The Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

1. Critical and creative thought
2. Effective argumentation with a focus on tone, purpose and audience.
3. Academic Integrity
4. Independent thinking and learning
5. Written communication on a collegiate level
6. Exposure to various cultures and subcultures
7. The influence of culture on individuals and their work
8. Collaborative study and writing

Student Learning / Course Outcomes

ACTS Objectives. The student will:

1. Develop an appreciation of various points of views
2. Demonstrate critical inquiry
3. Demonstrate a familiarity with the crucial concepts relevant to a philosophical analysis of reality, knowledge, human values, and critical reasoning.

Through discussion and the use of historical and contemporary readings students will gain an understanding of concepts and argumentation relevant to a philosophical analysis of reality, knowledge, values, and logical reasoning. The class will require students to read and write critically, and exams and writing assignments will be used to reinforce student knowledge of these topics.
Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA-P TC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-P TC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-P TC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Attendance Policy for PHIL 1310

The UA-P TC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Students are expected to attend class regularly and be ready to ask and answer questions about the material. It is the student’s responsibility to read the schedule to see what reading is expected. Each student is allowed three absences during the semester -- no questions asked. Save your allotted absences for the occasional emergency or unforeseeable illness. Each absence after three will result in a reduction of your point total.

Keep in mind that when you miss class, you miss material that will be covered on exams. You also may miss classwork that you will not be able to make up. Except for exceptional circumstances (that are documented) being sick does not entitle you to an extra absence. If you miss an exam day without a documented stuff, there will be a penalty.

Students who miss two or fewer days of class will receive a bonus of +10% on Exam 3.
Grading Policy
Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

150 points: Attendance/Participation
100 points: In Class Group Assignments
375 points: Take Home Essay Exams; 3 Essays at 125 points each
375 points: In Class Exams. 3 Exams at 125 points each
1000 points Total

Attendance/Participation: Show up and be awake. Students who are sleeping, reading, working on other classwork, or playing with their phones or computers will be counted absent. The use of laptops and tablets for taking notes is discouraged.

In Class/Group Assignments: We’ll have about 12 of these throughout the semester, at 5 points each. Your two lowest grades will be dropped. They are not scheduled, so you will need to attend class regularly to ensure that you get these points. Students are expected to work through philosophical problems or dilemmas with their assigned groups in class, and to actively participate in the class discussion. Each group will be responsible for turning in a worksheet.

Take Home Essay Exams: Since this is 37.5% of your grade, if you do not turn in any papers, you cannot mathematically achieve more than a 62.5% D in the course. There will be 3 essay exams—one for each unit. They should be 3-4 pages, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman. Students will be able to pick from a list of paper prompts. No outside research is needed, but proper citation using the course textbook is required. More details will be provided closer to the due date. Students may be required to meet with the instructor outside of class in order to receive essay feedback. After receiving feedback, students will be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit their essay exams for a higher grade.

Late Essays: If you have a valid and documented excuse, talk to the instructor as soon as possible and arrange new due date for full credit. Late papers are accepted without an excuse, but they will be penalized as follows:

- If you get it in within 24 hours past the due date, the penalty will be -5%.
- Within 1 week, -10%
- 2 weeks, -20%
- 3 weeks, -30%
- 4 or more weeks, -40%
**In-Class Exams:** There will be three in-class exams, each worth 12.5% of the final grade. Exams are not cumulative. They will consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions.

**Make-up exams:** If you have a valid and documented excuse, talk to the instructor as soon as possible to arrange a time to make up the test. If you do not have a documented excuse, you may be allowed to retake the exam, but there will be a late penalty.

- If you make up the exam within 1 week, the penalty will be 10%
- Within 2 weeks, -20%
- 3 weeks, -30%
- 4 or more weeks, -40%

**Students – not the instructor – are responsible for contacting the instructor to schedule a make-up exam.**

**Bonus:** There’s no bonus.

*Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School.*

In an online class, eligibility for Financial Aid is based on student participation. Logging into the course does not constitute participation. For purposes of roster certification, students must complete a gradable attendance artifact.

### Classroom Policies

**Pay Attention:** Turn cell phones off or set to silent before class. Do not use send text messages, play phone games, read the newspaper, sleep, sleep, or study for other classes. Please do not eat or drink during class. Students doing these things may be counted as absent.

**Participate:** As mentioned earlier, part of your grade is participation. Answer questions, and ask questions when you have them.

**Be Respectful:** This is a philosophy class, so arguments are encouraged. However, students should remain respectful of one another even when there are disagreements. Students can expect the same respect from the instructor. Philosophy class is about learning to develop good arguments, and to realize when your own arguments have failed or need some work. Good arguments do not involve raised voices or name-calling. Students who act disrespectfully to each other or the instructor will be asked to leave. Students who repeatedly disrupt class will be given a warning, and then asked to leave the class.

**Be Patient:** At some point in this course, no matter what your views are, they will come under criticism. So, when your views are criticized, try to be patient and understand the argument of the other side. **Learning an argument does not mean agreeing with it.** As Aristotle said, “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

**Check your Email:** I will periodically send out notes or course announcements to your Pulaski Tech email address. Make sure to check it regularly. Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations.
Academic Integrity
It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Course Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. All incidents of plagiarism, even unintentional or accidental ones, will be reported to the college. On the first offense, a student will be required to come to a meeting with the instructor and College officials, and then given a very long assignment about plagiarism, which he or she must complete successfully (At least 90% correct) in order to be allowed to continue in the course. This assignment will be posted online. For intentional plagiarism, the student will receive a 0 on the assignment. For unintentional plagiarism, the student will be allowed to correct the original plagiarized assignment, or to take a 0% and proceed with the course. On a second offense, the student will automatically fail the course.

Plagiarism is the representation of someone else’s writing or ideas as your own. It can be accidental as well as intentional. It is the student’s responsibility to fully understand what plagiarism is. If you use someone else’s work, make sure to cite it properly and give them credit. Proper citation methods will be discussed during class. If you are not sure what counts as plagiarism, feel free to discuss it with the instructor. More information can be found at http://www.plagiarism.org/.

Accommodation Policy
Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student’s responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.
Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. [http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2]

Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.
## Tentative Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Unit I: Ancient Philosophy; Metaphysics & Philosophy of Religion**  
**Unit II: Modern Philosophy: Epistemology & Philosophy of Mind**  
**Unit III: Ethics**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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| **1/9/19**
Course Introduction, Syllabus | **1/9/19**
Course Introduction, Syllabus |
| **1/14/19**
Socrates, Philosophy – Introduction to Arguments  
Reading Assignment: p. 1-23. | **1/16/19**
Early Metaphysics: Monism, Pluralism, The Upanishads, Daoism  
p. 43-65 |
| **1/21/19**
*No Class – MLK Day* | **1/23/19**
Skepticism  
Plato’s Cave  
Reading: p. 65-72 |
| **1/28/19**
Plato’s Metaphysics  
Reading: p. 72-79. | **1/30/19**
Aristotle’s Metaphysics  
p. 79-87 |
| **2/4/19**
Writing Philosophy Papers  
Diagramming Arguments  
Reading: 23-24, 35-39 | **2/6/19**
The cosmological and Teleological arguments for God.  
p. 138-149  
**Essay Exam I Due (Plato & Aristotle)** |
| **2/11/19**
Clifford: argument against faith  
The moral argument, Pascal’s Wager, Practical Reasons for Faith  
p. 150-155, 165-174 | **2/13/19**
The Problem of Evil: 155-165. |
| **2/18/19**
Other Criticisms of Theism  
175-187 | **2/20/19**
Review Session  
**Essay Exam I Rewrites Due (optional)** |
| **2/25/19**
*In Class Exam I* | **2/27/19**
Epistemology, 191-194  
Descartes’ Rationalism p. 200-210 |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4/19</td>
<td>Locke’s Empiricism</td>
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<td>p. 234-250</td>
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<td>3/6/19</td>
<td>Hume’s Skepticism, Theories of Personhood</td>
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<td>Essay Exam II Due (PHIL of Religion, Epistemology)</td>
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<td>3/11/19</td>
<td>The Pragmatic Theory of Truth</td>
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<td>p. 253-258, 260-266</td>
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<td>3/13/19</td>
<td>Dualism</td>
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<td>p. 323-332</td>
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<td>3/18/19</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<td>3/20/19</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
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<td>3/25/19</td>
<td>Essay Exam II Rewrites Due (Optional)</td>
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<td>Behaviorism, The Identity Theory</td>
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<td>p. 332-334, 341-357, p. 359-361</td>
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<td>Determinism, p. 444-451</td>
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<td>3/27/19</td>
<td>Existentialism, 486-493, Free Will (James handout)</td>
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<td>4/1/19</td>
<td>Review Session</td>
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<td>4/3/19</td>
<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>4/8/19</td>
<td>Ethics and Morality</td>
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<td>Obstacles to Ethics I: Relativism, Post-Modernism p. 498-509</td>
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<td>4/10/19</td>
<td>Obstacles to Ethics II: Egoism</td>
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<td>p. 509-522</td>
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<td>4/15/19</td>
<td>Aristotle’s Virtue Ethics</td>
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<td>p. 522-535</td>
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<td>4/17/19</td>
<td>Obstacles to Ethics III: Determinism: Stoics</td>
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<td>Handout Posted Online</td>
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<td>4/22/19</td>
<td>Confucianism</td>
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<td>Handout Posted Online</td>
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<td>4/24/19</td>
<td>Deontology &amp; Utilitarianism</td>
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<td>p. 542-568</td>
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<td>4/29</td>
<td>Essay Exam III Due (Phil. Mind or Ethics)</td>
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<td>Existentialism and Feminist Ethics, p. 575-590</td>
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<td>5/1/18</td>
<td>Nonviolence</td>
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<td>p. 649-654</td>
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<td>Additional Reading: posted online</td>
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<td>5/6/18</td>
<td>Self Defense &amp; Just War Theory</td>
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<td>5/8/18</td>
<td>Essay Exam III Rewrite Due (Optional)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Review</td>
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**Final Exam (Exam III): TBA**

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.
Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Joseph John’s Introduction to Philosophy Class at Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

Semester

Date

Print name

Signature

UA-UA-PTC Email address

Telephone