Instructor Information

Instructor: Joseph John
Office: CHARTS 430
Mailbox: CHARTS Fine Arts and Humanities Office
Office Hours: See Blackboard for Most Current Info
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

Catalog Description: Introduction to Philosophy Online (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: This is an online class, so computer access is a non-negotiable requirement. 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 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-PTC 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-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC 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-PTC 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.

Grading Policy
Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

90 to 100%  A
80 to 89%  B
70 to 79%  C
60 to 69%  D
0 to 59%  F

Grading Breakdown

50 Bonus: Forum Participation (5 points per post)
150 points: Weekly Reading Quizzes: 15% (12 quizzes at 15 points each. Your lowest two grades are dropped)
100 points: Reflection Papers. (3 Reflection papers, 35 points each)
750 points: At-home Essay Exams: (3 exams, 250 points each)
1000 points total
Forum Participation: Although it is not required, you can earn bonus participation points by participating in discussion forums throughout the class. Posts must be substantive – simply agreeing or disagreeing with another post or idea is not sufficient. Be respectful, and keep in mind that the forums are not anonymous. Students who repeatedly disrespect others will be banned from the forums. To get full credit for a weekly forum, you will need to post twice; at least one of those posts must be a response to someone else.

There will be no credit for late participation – the idea is to have a discussion, so if you are posting only after everyone else has moved on, that misses the point.

Weekly Reading Quizzes: Every week there will be a reading quiz. It will consist of multiple-choice questions about that week’s assigned materials. The quiz can be drawn from either assigned readings or from the lecture notes. You will be able to try the quiz multiple times if you get things wrong the first time.

Reflection Papers: There will be three short reflection papers of 500 words (about 1-2 pages). These short essays do not require research – I am looking for your thoughts on some philosophical topic. Your grade will be based on organization and argumentation. For each journal, students will pick from a list of questions that will be provided. Grammar and organization are important parts of your grade – I have to understand what you are saying if I am going to evaluate it. No outside research is necessary, but if you choose to do any, proper citation methods are required (MLA would be acceptable). Students will be required to upload their papers electronically via blackboard. More details about the papers will be provided closer to the due dates.

Exams: There will be three examinations, each worth 25% of the final grade. Exams are not cumulative. These exams are take-home essay exams. Students will choose two topics from a list on each exam. You are welcome to use your book and your notes. Some students even like to do extra research for these, but no resources beyond the book are necessary. Because you have time and resources, expectations will be high. Proper citation is expected; anything that is not properly cited may count as plagiarism and be severely penalized. More information on what counts as plagiarism will be provided throughout the class.

Late Quizzes, Papers, and Exams: 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%.
- 1 week, -10%
- 2 weeks, -20%
- 3 weeks, -30%
- 4 or more weeks, -40%

You may turn late work in up until the last day of class.

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

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. Philosophers come in all shapes and sizes, and from all different backgrounds. 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. The student will only then be allowed to redo the plagiarized assignment on a different topic to make up the credit, 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/](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](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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Course Introduction What Philosophy Is</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Logic and Philosophical Reasoning The First Philosophers</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Plato and Aristotle</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Philosophy and Religion – The Ontological and Teleological Arguments for God (for and against)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Evil and Religious Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Faith and Philosophy (Practical Arguments for and Against God) <strong>Essay Exam I Due</strong></td>
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| Week 7 | Knowledge  
| | Descartes’ Rationalism  
| | Locke’s Empiricism  |
| Week 8 | Hume’s Skepticism  
| | Theories of Knowledge (Especially Pragmatism) |
| Week 9 | Feminist Epistemology  
| | Theories of Self – Dualism |
| Week 10 | Rejection of Dualisms Determinism |
| Week 11 | Existentialism & Free Will Exam II Due |
| Week 12 | Moral Relativism & Natural Law Egoism vs Altruism |
| Week 13 | Virtue Ethics, Deontology |
| Week 14 | Break |
| Week 15 | Utilitarianism, Feminist Ethics  |
| Week 16 | Rights – What Rights do we have? How should we defend those rights? Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. |

This schedule is subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor. In the event of any changes, an updated schedule will be provided.