Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. J. Kelsey Wood  
Office: CHARTS 410  
Mailbox: Workroom #1  
Hours: MW 9:00 – 10:40; Tues-Thurs 8:55-9:20 & 12:05-12:35  
Email: Please use Blackboard Course messages. Only if Blackboard is down, then use jwood@uaptc.edu

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days. Please note that if you are unable to see me during office hours we can schedule a time that works better with your schedule.

Chair: Barry McVinney  501-812-2383  bmccvinney@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

This PHIL 1310 course revolves around class discussions of basic philosophical problems. All the main ideas of the course will be explained in my class presentations and my online discussion posts.

Catalog Description
PHIL 1310
Course Syllabus
SPRING 2019

(3 credit hours)
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 this course.

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

- Completion of READ 0300 (Foundations of Literacy) with a grade of “C” or better.
- A score of 19 or above on the Reading section of the ACT
- A score of 83 or above on the COMPASS Reading Placement Test
- A score of 78 or above on the Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Placement Test

Course Materials

No textbook required: Each assignment is available via handouts or internet sites. No text required.

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 PHIL 1103
The student will:
1. Develop an appreciation of various points of view
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

Course Content

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.

**Departmental Attendance Policy**

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid. Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started. Even though you will not be attending classes, you must log in regularly. Students will be tracked as to the number of times per week they have accessed the course. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the necessary procedures with Student Services to officially drop from the class. If you stop participating but do not officially drop the course, you will receive an “F” for a final grade. Students must abide by the Student Services deadlines for a “drop.”

**Course Policies**

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.
Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.

If you need to discuss a topic unrelated to the class please step outside to do so. Having private conversations with your peers or talking/texting on your cell phone while in the class will not be tolerated.

In this course we will discuss topics that you and others may feel strongly about. It is your job to be mindful of what you say to others and always treat everyone in the class with dignity and respect even if their opinion differs from yours.

**Grading Policy**

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

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

Exam 1: 100 points
Exam 2: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points
Total points possible: 300 points

Any relevant and insightful discussion post which you create will earn you extra credit that will be added to your upcoming exam score.
**Exams:** There will be three online examinations, each worth 100 points. All three exams may include objective questions and will include a short essay (minimum 300 words in length). Each exam will be open for a week, so you can take it on a day and at a time which is convenient for you. Because each exam is open for an entire week, there should be no reason for any make-up exams in this course.

**Class Discussions**

You should read all of my posts in Class Discussion. Student participation in discussions is the only way to earn extra credit for this course. Participating in the discussions will greatly increase your chances of earning a good grade for this course. The main purpose of the online discussions is for students to help each other understand the course materials, so in your discussion posts you should demonstrate familiarity with the terminology, concepts, and fundamental principles from each topic that we cover. In discussions, students should never simply quote from the course materials; instead, students should put the main ideas of the notes into their own words, and discuss together the meaning and implications of these ideas. In order to earn you some extra credit, your posts must show that you have been studying the course materials and reflecting on them.

* 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.

**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.

Under no circumstances will plagiarism be tolerated. Students who plagiarize will receive an “F” in the course.

Plagiarism consists of the following:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own
- to use (another’s production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else’s work and lying about it afterward.

**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.

**Weekly Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Study module 1 course materials on Logic. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Study module 1 course materials on Logic. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Study module 1 course materials on Logic. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Study module 1 course materials on Empiricism. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Study module 1 course materials on Empiricism. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 (Logic, Locke)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Study module 2 course materials on Empiricism. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Study module 2 course materials on Empiricism. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Study module 2 course materials on Empiricism. Read my posts in class discussion. (Optional: study module 2 materials on Social Contract Theory.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 (Hume, and for extra credit: Social Contract Theory)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Study module 3 course materials on Plato’s <em>Republic</em>. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Study module 3 course materials on Plato’s <em>Republic</em>. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Study module 3 course materials on Ethical-Political Theory. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Watch documentary films and/or read the two film transcripts. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Review all module 3 course materials for Final Exam. Read my posts in class discussion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Final Exam will be open online for several days during week 17.

**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 Dr. Wood’s Intro to Philosophy class at the University of Arkansas - 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.

Fall 2018

Semester