I. Instructor Information
Name: Joseph John
Office: Fine Arts and Humanities Adjunct Office (Fourth Floor, CHARTS Building)
Office hours: by appointment
Mailbox location: Fine Arts and Humanities
Email: jjohn@pulaskitech.edu

II. Catalog Description
Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credit Hours; 3 hours lecture per week). 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.
Prerequisites: Completion of DEVE 0316, 0317, OR 0110 with a grade of “C” or better, or 83 or above on the COMPASS Reading Placement Test.

III. Course Resources
Computer Access: Students will be expected to access Blackboard on a weekly basis. They will have to complete assignments using Microsoft Word or similar programs (Full time PTC students should have access to Word), submitting documents as attachments. The instructor can provide some help with these things, but students should have a working knowledge of computers. If necessary, go to the library or a computer lab on campus. Please do not attempt to take this course on a smartphone.

IV. Institutional Learning Outcomes
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:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sla/mission.asp
V. Department/Program Learning Outcomes
The Fine Arts and Humanities Division upholds and promotes the general education objectives stated in the PTC Catalog by requiring students taking classes in the Fine Arts and Humanities Division to:

Think critically.
Act with integrity.
Write across the curriculum.
Demonstrate computer literacy.
Demonstrate information literacy.
Demonstrate cultural literacy and sensitivity.
Understand the importance of civic/community involvement.

VI. Course Outcomes
In this course, students will gain a basic understanding of the goals, methods, and areas of philosophy. We will study some historically important and influential philosophers. Students will learn to understand and engage with points of view that are radically different from their own. Throughout the course, we will develop critical thinking and writing skills.

VII. College Attendance Policy

Online Attendance: Merely logging onto the course does not count as attendance. Students must log on and complete some assignment or participate in a forum discussion to be counted as in attendance for that week.

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. Teachers have the right to count students as absent if they arrive late to class, leave class early, or go in and out of the classroom during class time. Teachers have the right to lower a student's grade based on excessive absences.

Any student who misses two consecutive weeks of class may be administratively withdrawn from the class.

Any student who does not attend class, as defined above, within the first two weeks of class will be considered a “no show” according to the campus attendance policy and will be reported as such and dropped from the class.

Teachers have the right to enforce PTC’s administrative drop policy for days of consecutive nonattendance. Such particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Course Attendance Policy for PHIL 1310 – John

Students are expected to attend class regularly (i.e. log in every week) 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. If you miss two weeks of class in a row, you will be administratively withdrawn from the class.

In exceptional circumstances, deadlines may be extended or rearranged; if this is needed, talk to the instructor as soon as you can.

VIII. Classroom/Online Policies

The PTC Catalogue rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times.

Please consult the following website for more information:
http://www.pulaskitech.edu/admission/web_catalog/
Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed below.

**Be Respectful:** This is a philosophy class, so arguments on the Forums 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 or banned from course forums.

**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.

**IX. Grading**

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Forum Participation:** up to 5% (Bonus)
**Weekly Quizzes:** 15%
**Reflection Journals:** 10% (average of 3 papers)
**At-home Essay Exams:** 75% (3 exams, 25% each)

**Forum Participation:** Although it is not required, you can earn bonus participation points by participating in discussion forums throughout the class. Be respectful, and keep in mind that the forums are not anonymous. Students who repeatedly disrespect others will be banned from the forums.

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

**Weekly Quizzes:** Every week there will be a reading quiz, usually due Friday of that week at 5:00 PM. 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.

Late Quizzes: late quizzes will be accepted, but one letter grade will be deducted for every week past the due date. In other words, if you complete it on Saturday and it was due Friday, that will be -
10%. By the following Saturday, that would be -20%. If you have a legitimate excuse, talk to the instructor as early as possible.

**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.

*Late Assignments* If you do have a valid, relevant, 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 half a letter grade for every day past the due date. In other words, if a paper is due on Friday and you turn it in on Saturday, there will be a penalty of -5%. If you turn it in on Monday, there will be a penalty of -15%.

**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 like to do extra research for these, but no resources beyond the book are necessary. Because you have time and resources, expectations will be higher than with in-class exams. 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.

**Bonus:** The instructor may or may not offer a bonus assignment at some point during the class. Do not count on the availability of bonus points to help your grade. No personalized bonus assignments will be arranged.

**X. Academic Integrity**

It is expected that all students who attend PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The PTC catalogue states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalogue 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 can be found in the PTC code of conduct.

**Course Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. 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 80% correct) in order to be allowed to pass the course. The student will only then be allowed to redo the plagiarized assignment on a different topic for 50% of the original credit. 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/.

XI. Accommodation Policy
Services for Students with Disabilities: PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services in Counseling Services (501-812-2220 or www.pulaskitech.edu) prior to the semester of planned enrollment, and must provide recent documentation of medical, educational, and/or psychological records. Students who need accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Accommodations will only be provided if the instructor receives a letter of approved accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services. Failure to provide sufficient notification may result in a delay of services.

XII. 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 PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Dean of Students
Campus Center Building Room 212
501-812-2756
manderson@pulaskitech.edu

Additional information, including the PTC sexual assault policy, procedures, and resources may be found online at http://www.pulaskitech.edu/sexual_misconduct_awareness/.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Information Literacy

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.
XV. Course Schedule

Check Blackboard for the most current schedule and assignments due dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Course Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>What Philosophy Is</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Logic and Philosophical Reasoning</td>
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<td>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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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Faith and Philosophy (Practical Arguments for and Against God) **Essay Exam I Due</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
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<td>Descartes’ Rationalism</td>
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<td>Locke’s Empiricism</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Hume’s Skepticism</td>
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<td>Theories of Knowledge (Especially Pragmatism)</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Feminist Epistemology</td>
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<td>Theories of Self – Dualism</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Rejection of Dualisms</td>
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<td>Determinism</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Existentialism &amp; Free Will</td>
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<td>Exam II Due</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Moral Relativism &amp; Natural Law</td>
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<td>Egoism vs Altruism</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Virtue Ethics</td>
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<td>Deontology</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Utilitarianism</td>
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<td>Feminist Ethics</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Rights – What Rights do we have?</td>
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<td>How should we defend those rights?</td>
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<td>Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
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Final Exam Schedule: TBA

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