I. Instructor Information

Name: Nicolette Smith  
Office: Fine Arts & Humanities Office – CHARTS building – 4th floor  
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 8:25 – 9:25  
Tuesday and Thursday 12:15 – 1:15  
Friday 10:00 – 11:00 and as needed by appointment  
Mailbox location: Fine Arts & Humanities Office located in the CHARTS building – 4th floor  
Email: nsmith1@pulaskitech.edu  
Phone: 501-812-2261

II. Catalog Description

(3 credit hours)  
An examination of basic philosophical topics including the nature of reality and knowledge, human values, and critical thinking. The course will include both historical and contemporary readings.

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

III. Course Resources

Textbook: Each reading is available via handouts or internet sites. No text required.

IV. General Education 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
V. 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

VI. Course Objectives and Course Content

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.

VII. 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.

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 come to class 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.

Students who miss more than six days in a MWF class or more than four days in a class may be dropped a letter grade for each subsequent absence.
Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started. Since this is an online class and absences are not counted on a day by day basis, I expect you to log in to the course at least twice a week in order to receive full credit for participation and in order to not be dropped from the class. You also must “check in” via participating in online discussion posts at least once every week.

If you do not log in to your class for one week or seven days in a row, you may be administratively withdrawn from the class.

VIII. Classroom 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 in the paragraph below.

Treat others with respect. Do not make an exception for yourself. If you need to have a conversation related to something other than the topic at hand, do so outside of class.

IX. Grading

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<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>
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</tbody>
</table>

There will be three essay-type examinations worth 250 possible points each. Study questions for each exam will be distributed approximately one week prior to each examination. Each student must take his or her exam at the appropriate time for the section in which he or she is enrolled.

Make-up examinations will be given only under extreme circumstances. The testing procedure for make-up examinations will be modified to account for the additional study and preparation time available to those students who are unable to take an examination at the regularly scheduled time. All make-up exams will be given on the final class meeting prior to the start of the final exam schedule.

Essay:
Students will write one essay covering one of the philosophical theories discussed in class. This will be
an in depth essay requiring students to read and evaluate one reading or theory of their choice in detail. The student is responsible for explaining the theory as well as explaining the intent of the author when writing the work. More details will be covered pertaining to the essay closer to when the essay is due.

Essays require a minimum of 3 sources. Be sure to address points made by the author that you may agree with as well as those you may not. MLA format should be followed and grammatical errors kept to a minimum. The essay should contain a thesis statement and argue a main point, should be 3 to 4 pages in length, and in 12 point Times New Roman font. Essays should be emailed to the instructor at nsmith1@pulaskitech.edu

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 Student Handbook states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The handbook 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.”

Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances and those that plagiarize their assignments will be dropped from the course.

The complete Academic Integrity Policy can be found in the PTC Student Handbook.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and Logic</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Cosmological Argument: St. Thomas Aquinas and Paul Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teleological Argument: William Paley and David Hume</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ontological Argument: St. Anselm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TEST I – Covering Weeks 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Why is there evil? B.C. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Problem of Evil: Blaise Pascal and W.K. Clifford</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Knowledge: John Locke and Rene Descartes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind: Rene Descartes</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Personal Identity John Locke and David Hume</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TEST II – Covering Weeks 6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ethics and Morality: James Rachels and Ruth Benedict</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ethical Theory: Utilitarianism and Deontology</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Political Philosophy - <strong>Research Essay Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Application of Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Contemporary Ethical Problems – To be assigned</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam Schedule:** *TBA*
Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.