

Piedmont Technical College Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prefix/Number: PHI 101

Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Responsible Division: Arts and Sciences

Last Day to Withdraw from this Course: For the last date to withdraw from this course, consult the current *Student Calendar*.

Course Description:

For course, credit hour, pre-requisite(s) and co-requisite(s) information, visit the Detailed Course Information page: www.ptc.edu/courses/PHI101.

Textbook and Other Materials:

For textbook information and additional required and/or supplemental materials, visit the [college bookstore](http://www.ptc.edu/bookstore) (www.ptc.edu/bookstore).

Proctored Examinations:

Proctored examinations for distance learning courses taken at non-PTC campuses may require a proctoring fee for each exam taken.

COURSE POLICIES

Course policies are available online through the *Academic Catalog* and *Student Handbook*. Visit the [Course Policies page](http://www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) (www.ptc.edu/syllabus/policies) for a detailed list of important policies and more information.

GRADE POLICY

Detailed grading policy information can be found on the [Grading Policy webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy) (http://www.ptc.edu/grading-policy). Final grade appeal information is available in the [Academic Catalog](http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/) (http://www.ptc.edu/catalog/).

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations for ADA:

Information is available on the [Student Disability Services webpage](http://www.ptc.edu/ada) (<http://www.ptc.edu/ada>).

TITLE IX HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Piedmont Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities. Title IX protects students, employees, and applicants from sex discrimination in admissions and employment to include discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. More information regarding Title IX, including contact information for the Title IX coordinators, is available at [Title IX Harassment and Sexual Assault Information](https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information) (<https://www.ptc.edu/about/legal-disclosures/title-ix-harassment-and-sexual-assault-information>).

RATIONALE

Why do I need this course?

Philosophy seeks to understand the most basic nature of reality. It is concerned with reality as a whole as opposed to separate areas or sections of reality, such as history, the sciences, religion, and the arts. The principles and characteristics discovered by philosophy are presented as the foundation of the knowledge contained in the specific areas of knowledge. Every educated person should be exposed to some degree to philosophical methods and views for at least two reasons. First, every person wants to know, claims to know, or unconsciously acts as if he or she knows what basic reality is like. Each student should be provided the opportunity to become aware of and examine his or her own views of basic reality; to improve his or her ability to do philosophical thinking; and to know the views of others who have struggled to answer life's basic questions. Second, each person needs to be exposed to the broader aspect of knowledge of which his or her area of study is just a part. Philosophy provides a view of the relationship of the areas of truth and knowledge.

All of philosophy is a mode of inquiry, not a body of knowledge. There is nothing to be memorized. Rather, one must be prepared to explain any belief that one holds, and to show the logical relationship between one's assumptions and one's conclusions. That is, philosophy is about reasoning,

and one must be prepared to defend one's beliefs against any and all challenges, as well as to offer challenges to the opinions of others, including the instructor. Life's decisions are not made in a historical or situational vacuum, and so the study of philosophy is neither indifferent to factual information, nor to the opinions of thinkers who have seriously studied life's problems. In every case, however, the opinions of these thinkers are to be studied with a critical eye, not memorized, nor are they to be cited as proof that one is correct in one's own views. Citing Plato, Aristotle, Jesus, Aquinas, or Sartre is not a philosophical argument. In authoritative. Even so, philosophy is much more than giving one's opinion. It is a matter of defending one's opinion, of showing how it follows from certain assumptions, and by what logical route. The evaluation of a philosophical argument thus depends entirely on the analysis of the reasoning involved, not the opinion held.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

For program information including required courses, program learning outcomes, gainful employment information and advisement information, refer to the Academic Program webpage. Go to [Academics](http://www.ptc.edu/academics) (<http://www.ptc.edu/academics>), select your program, and then select Credentials Offered.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course and/or clinical, each student will be able to:

- Identify and discuss what philosophy is.
- Define, evaluate, and analyze the primary areas of philosophy.
- Identify and discuss wisdom.
- Identify and discuss knowledge.
- Identify and discuss belief.
- Identify, evaluate, and analyze Asian philosophy.
- Identify and discuss Protagoras as a sophist.
- Identify and evaluate Socrates and the dialectic method.
- Identify and analyze Plato's philosophy.
- Identify and discuss Aristotle's philosophy.
- Identify and discuss the Stoics.

- Identify and discuss Thomas Aquinas.
- Identify and discuss Rene Descartes.

GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

Piedmont Technical College General Education Competencies for All Graduates:

This course may address one or more of the following General Education Competencies (assessment will be stated when applicable):

Communicate effectively.

Assessment:

Class discussion

Apply mathematical skills appropriate to an occupation.

Assessment:

N/A

Employ effective processes for resolving problems and making decisions.

Assessment:

In-class writing assignments, with students evaluating each other's decisions. Exams are multiple choice and true/false.

Demonstrate the basic computer skills necessary to function in a technological world.

Assessment:

D2L. Exams are taken online inside D2L.

To validate proficiency in the general education competencies, students in some programs will be tested using Work Keys.