

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PHILOSOPHY 101)



Monday/Wednesday 7:45 AM – 9:10 AM

Section 2602 | Room SOCS 205

Spring 2018 | February 12 – June 6

No class Monday, February 19; Monday, April 9; Wednesday, April 11; Monday, May 28

Instructor: Mr. Fike | Office: ARTB 320 | Office hours: by appointment | Email: lfike@elcamino.edu
Course handouts (required): <https://elcamino.instructure.com> | Mr. Fike's webpage: www.larryfike.net

Course Description:

This course examines the main areas of philosophy, which include ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Students will explore values and beliefs, moral actions, freedom, the soul and God, and what constitutes a fulfilling life.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain and differentiate three main areas of philosophy: ethics, epistemology and metaphysics.
2. Explain the difference between knowledge and beliefs about the physical world (the realm of science) and knowledge and beliefs about moral issues and metaphysical things such as God, Heaven and Hell, and souls.
3. Assess and explain perspectives and outlooks on life that are beyond traditional societal paradigms, such as minority, feminist and Taoist perspectives.
4. Distinguish between normative and descriptive ethics.
5. Explain the difference between duty ethics and consequentialism, and illustrate this difference by applying the theories to an ethical problem.
6. Differentiate moral relativism from moral objectivism, and explain their relationship to contemporary moral issues.
7. Discuss and analyze what constitutes a good and fulfilling life, such as the roles of money and happiness.
8. Analyze philosophical writing for its logical structure, coherence and acceptability, utilizing standard philosophical measures.
9. Identify and analyze metaphysical problems, such as the problem of free will versus determinism; the existence of God; the ultimate nature of reality; and the nature and existence of consciousness.
10. Clarify the difference between conviction, belief and knowledge.
11. Compare and contrast epistemological theories concerning the source, extent and limits of knowledge.
12. Analyze different systems of government, focusing especially on their justifications and their assumptions about human nature.
13. Compare the conflict between the ideals of equality and security with individualism and liberty.

Student Learning Outcomes:

In a written assignment or oral discussion, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the major areas of philosophy and use that knowledge to analyze classic and/or contemporary issues in metaphysics, epistemology, axiology and/or political philosophy.

Reading Material:

- *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, 2nd Edition by Rene Descartes (Hackett Publishing Company, ISBN 978-0872204201). Recommended.
- *Five Dialogues* by Plato (Hackett Publishing Company, ISBN 978-0872206335). Recommended.
- Handouts to be made available at <https://www.elcamino.instructure.com>. Required.
- *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse (Bantam, ISBN 978-0553208849). Required.



Supplies: Carry your textbook, a No. 2 pencil, and an 815-E Scantron to each class meeting. 882-E for exams.

Assessment – the semester grade will consist of the following area distribution:

1. Three Exams – 60%
2. Term Paper – 20%
3. Homework, Quizzes and Classroom Participation – 20%

Grading Explanations:

1. Exams are true-false/multiple choice/essay.
2. Term paper Guidelines will be published on Canvas early in the course.
3. Quizzes and similar “buddy assignments” are frequent and are designed to help you discern whether you’re keeping up and are on track. These can’t be made up; they demonstrate class participation. Keep all returned, graded assignments at least until your final grade in the course is registered and you judge it to be correct. These serve as your receipts and evidence in cases where a dispute may arise.

Grade Scale:

- A – 90% - 100%
- B – 80% - 89.99%
- C – 70% - 79.99%
- D – 60% - 69.99%
- F – 0% - 59.99%

Attendance:

Attendance is required. If you accumulate more than eight absences, please withdraw yourself from the course. If you are absent for more than two consecutive class meetings without contacting the instructor, you may be dropped from the course by the instructor, although the responsibility for withdrawing always remains your own. Always inform the instructor as soon as you are aware that you will miss a class meeting.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures:

For attendance purposes, both late arrivals and early departures are regarded as absences (see attendance policy above). However, you derive the benefits of being in class for whatever portion of it you attend, so do come in late if you must. If you know in advance that you must leave prior to the official end of class, or that you must arrive late, communicate this to the instructor as soon as possible.

Withdrawals:

It is your responsibility to fill out the necessary paperwork and take all required measures if you withdraw. If you are out of compliance with the attendance policy (above) and do not withdraw, you may receive an “F” for the course.

Electronic Devices:

In the classroom, students may use electronic devices only at the discretion of the instructor. Laptops, tablets and phones may all be brought to class. Bringing them and using them are, however, two different matters.

The use of any recording device (cameras, voice recordings, video cameras, etc.) during class without the prior written consent of the instructor is prohibited. This is to protect privacy and to create a safe classroom environment where all participants can discuss potentially controversial or sensitive subjects freely.

Preparing for Class:

Students are expected to read each assignment before the class meeting that pertains to it. An ideal strategy for success is to read the assignment beforehand; come to class discussion; and then to re-read the assignment.



Classroom Behavior:

- Please be respectful always.
- Please be attentive always.
- Please be actively participative in the course objectives always.
- Take notes. This constructive use of class time will bring you one step closer to mastery of the material.
- Familiarize yourself with the Standards of Student Conduct:
<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205500%20Standards%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Extra Credit and Make-ups:

These are rarely offered. In cases where a student has a note from a physician and in other rare instances, make-up exams may be arranged. Quizzes and other in-class work can never be made up. In cases where students would like to improve their opportunities for success in achieving the anticipated course outcomes, they are advised to use the time that they would spend on extra-compulsory projects, to demonstrate mastery of what has been included in the course's design instead. The Student Success Resources listed below may also be of assistance. Mr. Fike will work with you individually when this is requested and deemed advantageous to a student's overall success.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To arrange for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>

Student Success Resources

Counseling and Student Success Division: <http://www.elcamino.cc.ca.us/student-services/co/>

- Division Office
- (310) 660-3442
- Counseling Front Desk
- (310) 660-3458
- Career Center
- (310) 660-3593 ext. 6137
- Transfer Center
- (310) 660-3593 ext. 3408

Library: <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/>

- (310) 660-3525

Reading Success Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/vpaa/sep/rsc/>

- (310) 660-3593 x6729

Tutoring Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/lrc/tutoring/index.asp>

- (310) 660-3593 x3511

Writing Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/humanities/writingcenter/>

- (310) 660-3873



COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE*
Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Spring Semester 2018: February 12 – June 6

Instructor: Mr. Fike

Email: lfike@elcamino.edu

Office: ARTB 320

Office Hours: By appointment

Website: www.larryfike.net

Week of February 12: What is Philosophy? [Domains](#). The Triangle. [Logic](#). [Parmenides](#). [Heraclitus](#). [Thales](#). [Socrates](#). Textbook: pp. 1-36.

Week of February 19: Socratic Questions, Logic, Thought Experiments and Counter-examples.
No class on Monday.

Week of March 5: Plato: Psychology and Metaphysics

Week of March 12: Plato: Education and the State

Week of March 19: EXAM 1

Week of March 26: Cartesian Rationalism I

Week of April 16: Cartesian Rationalism II

Week of April 23: The existence of god(s)

Week of April 30: Good, evil, and the existence of god(s)

Week of May 7: EXAM 2; draft of term paper due if you wish a critique

Week of May 14: Mind and body (consciousness)

Week of May 21: Free Will and Determinism

Week of May 28: Ethics: Utilitarianism and Deontology

Week of June 4: The Meaning of Life

*Subject to change. Additional reading will likely be assigned during course of semester. Read assigned before class meeting time whenever possible.