SYLLABUS PHIL 100 TABLE OF CONTENTS

Course Title: Phil 100 Introduction to Philosophy (8 Weeks)

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description

This class is fully online. However, proctored exams are required to be taken at a testing center or with an approved proctor.

This course will introduce students to the fundamental questions of human existence including the foundation of knowledge, the nature of ethical, religious, and social values and meaning, conceptions of being, and human freedom. Consideration will be given to the application of philosophical methods to contemporary society and problems.

The purpose of the study of philosophy generally is the development of critical thinking skills. As we will soon discover, the subject matter of philosophy is made of those questions about which we can only offer arguments—not proof. Once a question has proof, usually offered in scientific terms, it becomes a part of a body of knowledge we call a science.

Philosophy's value lies in the ability to take pieces of information and use them to reach a suitable conclusion. I believe that most of the most pressing questions we face have no 'right-wrong' sort of answer. Should I go to work for Company A or Company B? Should I marry C or D? More formally we might ask things bigger questions. Is there a Supreme Being? Who gets to decide what is right and wrong? By examining the evidence for these types of question, the hope is that you develop the ability to make good decisions using the evidence you have. That, in a nutshell, is critical thinking.

Prerequisite
None.

Textbook Information
1. Required E-textbook Bundled With Access Code:
The request text for this class is accessed via a code available from the MCCKC bookstore. It is mandatory for this class, as it will also include all quizzes and tests.

REVEL for The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas --
Access Card, 5th Edition

Chaffee

©2016

Access Code Card

ISBN-13: 9780133882100

You can purchase the access code from MCC bookstores at
http://mcckc.edu/bookstores/. You can also purchase the code at REVEL site when
you access REVEL site by clicking the "REVEL Link" course menu in blackboard
site, and then click on "Open REVEL".

**If you use the complimentary 14-day trail from REVEL site, please purchase
the access code from MCC bookstore when it is about to expire. Students in
the past have reported that the purchase button from REVEL website did not
work!**

2. Other Required Materials:
We will be viewing the movie "Being John Malkevich" as a part of Unit 4. It is
available through a variety of sources. Sometimes you can find a copy in a bargain
movie bin that many stores have.

More reliable, however, is that it is available through Amazon or discount book
stores such as Half Price Books. I have gotten a few copies there.

If you are ok with downloading it online, it is available at Netflix, and also You Tube
at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKTfCoJfB1k
for $2.99

3. Optional Materials
If you find reading long sections online difficult, there is also a print copy of the
textbook available after you access the course website. It is not at all mandatory,
and it offered for your convenience, should it be helpful.

Course Objectives
Upon Completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and explain basic philosophical definitions and concepts.
- Identify, explain, and analyze classical theories of metaphysics, epistemology
  and ethics.

- Demonstrate logical and critical thinking abilities by constructing sound arguments and evaluating traditional and contemporary philosophical arguments.
- Apply philosophical methods to contemporary problems and questions and evaluate the arguments and theories given in response.

Communication and Turnaround Time

1. Communication Types:

- Announcements will be posted by the instructor in the Announcement Page.

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- Course Messages:
  - If you have specific, personal questions for the instructor, please send a message through Blackboard using the Course Messages link on the left.

- Discussion Boards: Questions and answers will be posted in the discussion board forums that you will want to read. Weekly discussion questions are posted for class interaction.

  - General Question Forum: If you have a general question regarding the course policies and procedures that have not been answered in the syllabus or course orientation materials, there is a discussion board forum labeled General Questions. Your question and the instructor's response will be available there to help others who may have had the same question.

2. Communication Turnaround Time:

You can expect all correspondence via discussion board or messaging to be responded to within 48 hours Monday through Friday. The instructor will notify the class if there will be longer periods of time where responses may be delayed.

Grades and Feedback Turnaround time

It is imperative in an online class that you are aware of your grade status in the class at all times.

Please refer to the link below to see how to check your grades and feedback:

- [How to check my grades written tutorial](#)
  [How to check my grades video tutorial](#)
- [How to check assignment grades written tutorial](#)
  [How to check assignment grades video tutorial](#)

It is imperative in an online class that you are aware of your grade status in the class at all times. Here are the expected turnaround times for each assignment type.

1. Discussion forums will most often be graded within 1 week after the due date.
2. Quizzes and exams will most often be graded within 10 days after the due date.
3. Papers will most often be graded within 14 days after the due date.

Grades

Percentage Grade:

Module Quizzes = 26 @ 3% each = 8%

Unit 1 Worksheets = 2 @ 1% each = 2%

Unit 1 Quiz = 5%

Exams (midterm 12/5% + final exam = 12.5 %) = 25%

Discussion Boards = 10 @ 3% each = 30%

Papers (paper 1 10% + Paper 2 20%) = 30%

Total: 100%

Letter Grades

The grading scale is as follows:

A= 90-100%

B= 80 - 89%

C= 70 - 79%

D= 60 - 69%

F= Below 60%

Assignment Types and Grading Policy (Including Proctored Exams)

Here is information about some of the assignments in the course:

- **Module Quizzes**: Module Quizzes in the form of quizzes that occur often during your reading. They are self-graded, and offer more points if answers are correct the first time, and less thereafter. They are checks to be sure you are understanding what you are reading—a necessity to making good arguments.

- **Worksheets**: In Blackboard, Learning Units Unit 1, there are two worksheets. Answer sheets will be provided after the due date.

    o Informal fallacies worksheet
    o Deductive Logic Exercises

  Please complete REVEL reading 1.4 before you work on these worksheets. These worksheets will help you prepare for Discussion Board Unit 1 Part 2 and for the final assessment at the end of the semester. Fill out this worksheet, using the information in REVEL reading 1.4 about the different types of arguments, and use these to practice the skills of identifying the types of deductive arguments and the inductive fallacies. Take these worksheets and use the text of REVEL readings 1.4 to decide the best answer for discussion Board Unit 1 Part 2. I will post the answers here and leave an Announcement letting you know the answers keys are here. The answer keys are PDF files, so please make sure you have Adobe Reader. You can download a free version of Adobe Reader in the "Student Resources" tab.

  After completing these, you can submit them in Blackboard, Learning Units, Unit 1, Worksheets.

- **Unit 1 Quiz:** Unit 1 Quiz is a take home quiz consisting of 15 multiple-choice questions.

- **Midterm Exam**: Midterm Exam consists of 4 essay questions, each taken from the sections in this Unit's readings. Choose 3, and write a short (approximately one page) essay on each of those prompts. Be sure you answer all parts of the prompt, and that you refer to the outline of a critical paper in 1.3 in your text.
    o Grading Rubrics for Essay Questions

- **Final Exam**: The dates on which this exam will be available on Blackboard are listed on the Schedule. THE FINAL EXAM IS PROCTORED, SO PLEASE SET UP A TIME AND A PALCE TO TAKE THIS TEST IN ONE OF THE TESTING CENTERS. CLICK ON "PROCTORING EXAM INFO" COURSE MENU TO SIGN UP A PLACE AND TIME, AND SEE HOW TO TAKE TESTS AT TESTING CENTERS. Students will have ONE hour to take the test. You should study the readings, and the Self-Assessment from Unit 5 in order to perform well on this portion of the Final. Three essay questions will be given in advance of the test, from which I will put one on the test. The short answer questions on the Final Exam will be derived from the Self-Assessment Activities and Discussion Posts.

    o Grading Rubrics for Essay Questions

- **Papers**:

Academic papers are important tools for developing critical writing skills; thus, be sure to take them seriously and do your best. Each of the two papers should be 3-4 pages in length (using Times New Roman 12 point font and one inch margins all around). It does not matter which line spacing you use. The first will come at the end of Unit 2; the second will conclude Unit 4. More details on these papers are posted under Grading Rubric: Paper Guidelines (posted under Rubrics and Feedback course menu) and the due dates for them are listed on the Schedule. The score for late papers will be docked at the instructor's discretion.

- o [Grading Rubrics for Essay Questions](#)

The proliferation of ways to submit documents has caused some consternation as to what works and what doesn't for a particular course. **For this course, documents must be submitted as either .pdf, .doc or .docx files**. All others will need to be converted to one of these formats before being submitted.

A note about plagiarism. MCCKC takes a very hard line about any the use of material that is not the work of the student receiving credit for the assignment. Many students think this just means you can't copy the words from another source. However, this also includes using the ideas or organization from another source without appropriate citation. Although using other sources is not necessary for this assignment, or even encouraged, if a student uses material for which she is not the originator, it will be subject to penalties up to and including turning the material over to the Academic Dean of the online campus. If you can't decide whether you need to cite or not, GO AHEAD AND FOOTNOTE THE MATERIAL which had a source in another's work. At this level, you will not be penalized for "over-citation." Or even better, check with your instructor. They can advise you whether you need to cite a statement if you send them the source and what you have written. You can do that using "cut and paste" and send it in a message. Thank you in advance for your integrity in the use of the vast resources we have in today's world.

To transform other files into *.pdf, *.doc or *.docx files, you can open the file again, and the click on **File > Download as (Save as)**, and the **choose pdf, doc or docx as the file format**. See a screenshot below. If there is a question,

please see the check out the video link below, or contact 24/7 Blackboard Student Help listed in "Blackboard Help" course menu.

Video tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHccpUkMeUE
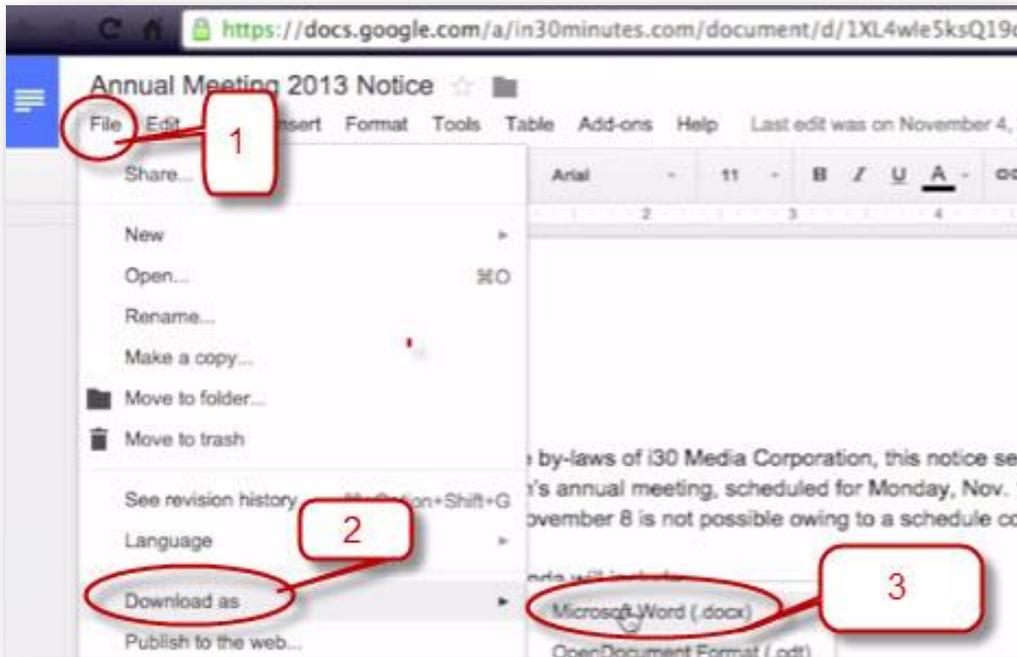
- **Discussion Boards**: There are 5 units, and each unit has two discussion boards.
  - o Given that this is an online course, your participation in our online discussion forum is crucial. Each student will be required to submit online responses to discussion questions for each unit and to respond to other students' posts in addition to the other assignments that are specified on the Schedule (such as quizzes, exams, and papers).
  - o Students will be asked to "carry the flow" of conversation on our discussion board. All comments are to be written using proper English (both punctuation and grammar). Please do not use online "slang" or abbreviations of any kind; also, please be courteous, kind, and respectful in all your posts and responses to others.
  - o Your discussion posts are to be reasoned arguments; therefore, if you use phrases like "I think" or "I believe", I am expecting adequate

justification for your thought or belief (this means you will need to supply good reasons that are logical and supported by adequate evidence). Failure to do so will result in partial credit for your post. All assignments need to be completed by the designated due date.

o Please do not simply submit a sentence or two at the end of the unit. You are to read others' comments and reply with reasoned and thoughtful responses. I will require at least 2 posts per unit (grades will be based on quality, quantity, accuracy, and length). Two postings of one sentence will not give you full points for that particular discussion. You are required to read the assigned texts and the weekly lectures and utilize what you learn to participate fully in the discussions. The response post should present a counterargument to the original writer's viewpoint. It might come in the form of evidence to the contrary, or perhaps pointing out a shortcoming in the original post's reasoning, or even a logical fallacy.

o Students are expected to log into the course regularly, to pay attention to announcements and the schedule, and to show steady progress towards completion of the requirements of this course. Hence, I will assume that any student who does not sign in and participate for 7 consecutive days is no longer part of the class (unless discussion has taken place with the instructor). However, as stated below, any student who wishes to officially drop the course must complete the necessary withdrawal process for herself or himself.

o [Grading rubrics for Discussion Boards](#)

Proctored Exams

MCC Online students use SmarterProctoring to sign up for a time to take a proctored exam. Students may sign up to take the exam in one of the MCC testing centers or with another approved proctor. If SmarterProctoring does not offer a pre-approved proctor in the student's area, the student may find another proctor with the approval of the instructor. Instructions on how to use SmarterProctoring are provided within the course itself.

Please note that if you are testing at one of the MCC locations you will be required to sign up for an available time slot at that testing center before arriving at the site. Even if you are a "walk-in" you will need to access SmarterProctoring to sign up prior to being allowed to take the test.

Course Policies

1. Non-graded and Required Activities

Prior to starting the module quizzes in REVEL, you will need to learn the necessary concepts and skills. There are a number of learning helps you can use in addition to our textbook.

In REVEL, REVEL provides a number of learning aids to help you prepare for doing the module quizzes. Working through these videos, tutorials and interactive activities in e-textbook provide the lecture portion of our class.

- o Highlights and Notes
- o Learning Help activities in REVEL

2. Extra Credit

There is no extra credit in this course.

3. Expectations

It is expected that you will access this blackboard site at least three times per week. Daily access is encouraged.

This course has been designed to be delivered in as flexible a manner as possible, but this does not mean that you will be able to leave it alone for more than a day. This is a 3-credit-hour class taught in 8 weeks, which would meet for 6 hours a week and have approximately 12-18 hours of outside work and study. You should plan on spending about 18– 24 hours a week on this course with the online time, reading materials, and study time.

As this is an Internet course, you are expected to obtain necessary online access to a computer with the minimal requirements stated under Course Orientation. I encourage you to identify several alternatives for computer access prior to the start of class so that you will not be in limbo if you lose your primary source of access.

It is best practice to submit assignments well in advance of the due dates to eliminate any possibility of technology issues preventing you from submitting your work. We open the homework for the unit all at once to allow you to work ahead within a unit if/when you can. The individual homework assignments will be due at regular intervals.

There are multiple dates for each proctored test. Be sure to schedule testing as early in the testing timeframe as possible.

4. Attendance Policy

Since this course is online, your "attendance" in class is based on meeting assignment deadlines. You must submit work for the class to be considered attending the class. Federal Guidelines require you to login, participate, and submit assignments to be considered attending.

MCC regulations state that an instructor may withdraw a student from class after a consecutive absence equating to 15% of the total class time, or after total absences equating to 33% of the total class time. If you fail to submit any work for one week of an 8-week course or two weeks of a 16-week course, you may be withdrawn. If you fail to turn in 33% of your work in the course, you may be withdrawn from the course. An instructor may choose to enforce a stricter attendance policy.

Simply logging in to Blackboard does not count as attendance.

5. Late Work

Due dates for assignments, exams, discussions and other work are posted on the course schedule or calendar. Late assignments will not be accepted.

6. Drop Policy

It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course if you decide to stop attending. If you choose to drop the course you must complete a drop form and submit it to the campus records office. Check myMCCKC > Student Center for the specific dates, including the last date to drop your course without assessment (or grade posted) for the course

Before withdrawing, please contact an advisor to determine what if any impact this drop will have on your financial aid.

7. Code of Conduct

Students are required to follow the [Metropolitan Community College's Student Code of Conduct](#).

8. Student Support

If you need technical support for Blackboard, MCC student email, tutoring services, Library services, advising or counselling services, please click on the "Student Resources" tab on top of blackboard after you logged in to Blackboard.

Netiquette

Netiquette: Information on appropriate online conduct can be found in [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#). You are expected to follow these rules and any other specific rules your instructor may require for interacting in the class.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

In order to continue your eligibility for financial aid, you must make satisfactory academic progress toward your educational plan by maintaining a minimum grade point average and successfully completing a minimum number of courses throughout your enrollment at MCC, and completing your educational plan within a reasonable time. Your progress will be reviewed at the end of each semester. More information is available at Satisfactory Academic Progress web site.

ADA

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) is committed to ensuring equal access to all qualified students with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a disability which may impact your ability to access or participate in any aspect of your online coursework, please contact the campus Disability Support Services (DSS) Coordinator or your choice. Phone numbers are listed at mcckc.edu/disability. The DSS Coordinator will work with you to determine what disability documentation/information is needed in order to provide accommodations. Accommodations are determined on an individualized basis and may take some time to put in place, so early notification to DSS is helpful. Students can identify themselves to DSS as a student with a disability and request accommodations anytime during their education. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may vary based on the nature and requirements of the class. More information is available at mcckc.edu/disability.

- Blackboard Accessibility Information
- Smart Proctoring Accessibility Information
- Pearson REVEL Accessibility Information

Academic Integrity

The Metropolitan Community College, as an academic community, expects all administrators, faculty, staff, and students to behave as responsible members of the college community and to be honest and ethical in their academic work. MCC strives to provide students with the knowledge, skills, judgment, and wisdom they need to function in society as educated adults. To falsify or fabricate the results of one's research; to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own; or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of higher education and the values of the Academy.

The Metropolitan Community College expects all students to act according to the rules of academic honesty as outlined in the Student Handbook. What this really means is that you are expected to turn in only your own work and that you will complete all

quizzes and examinations unassisted. If you should violate this trust, then you will be treated the same as any traditional student that cheats.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

1. Plagiarism - the intentional use of the ideas or words of another as one's own in a paper or other academic assignment.
2. Cheating during examinations, whether by copying from a fellow student or by using information in the form of unauthorized aids brought to the examination.
3. The submission of work for any assignment that has been prepared by another student.
4. Submission of a single paper to fulfill requirements in two courses without prior approval of the instructors in both courses.
5. Using a false name or signing the name of another individual without proper authorization in connection with any course work.

Disciplinary action will be taken for those students suspected of academic dishonesty. At no point in this course is it acceptable for students to submit someone else's work as their own, or use the ideas of someone else as their own. It is also unacceptable for students to share their own work with another student.

Unilateral Instructor Action – If objective evidence exists indicating that a student has practiced academic dishonesty, the instructor may assign a grade of "F" on the paper, examination, or assignment or assign a grade of "F" for the course.

If the instructor feels that a more severe action is appropriate, the complaint may be referred to the division chair and the dean of instruction. The dean has the authority to recommend an action to the president, or the student may request a hearing.

Grievance

Questions or concerns about any aspect of this course should be directed to the instructor so the student and the instructor can work together to resolve any problems that may exist. In the unlikely event that the problem cannot be resolved, then the next step is for the student to make contact the MCC Online Enrollment Manager at 816 604 4487.

Metropolitan Community College is strongly committed to providing workplaces and classrooms that are free of sexual harassment. MCC will not tolerate any behavior, whether verbal or physical, which constitutes sexual harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature are prohibited. To file a complaint, contact the MCC Online Enrollment Manager at 816 604 4487.