

Syllabus for
PHIL 302—Introduction to Philosophy
3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the major problems of philosophy with ancient and modern proposals of solutions. Emphasizes notable Christian thinkers.

Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is aimed at the sharpening of philosophical insight. The major goals are to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Obtain an overview of major themes in the discipline of philosophy.
- B. Demonstrate the abiding value of philosophical discussion for a better understanding of the world (including how we come to know the world [epistemology and metaphysics] and the role of various appraisals we make of it [ethics, philosophy of religion, political philosophy]).
- C. Develop the ability to effectively communicate theological and philosophical ideas.
- D. Form an understanding of a broad range of doctrines, issues and ideas integral for a reflective study of philosophy and thereby enable the student to intelligently “dig deeper” after the close of the semester.
- E. Acquire critical-thinking skills useful for future academic and vocational pursuits.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Successful completion of this course will enable the student to do the following:

- A. Demonstrate, in writing, a working knowledge of philosophy.
- B. Discuss and define key problems, issues, concepts, and disciplines of philosophy.
- C. Discuss significant philosophers and their contribution to philosophical thought.
- D. State the function of philosophy from a Christian perspective, namely, to probe the nature of reality.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
 - 1. Textbooks

Rogers, Glenn. *Philosophical Musings: Thirteen Questions That Provide a Topical Introduction to Philosophy*. Estherville, IA: NSS Press, 2013. ISBN 978-1-936306-78-7

Thorpe, Robert S. *Ethics, Evolution, and Other Provocative Thoughts*. Acton, MA: Copley, 2013. ISBN 978-1-58152-949-4

2. Other
None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Chesterton, G. K. *Orthodoxy*. Ignatius Press, 1995. ISBN: 9781604591613

Descartes, Rene. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Hackett Publishing Company, 1993. ISBN: 0872201929

Durant, Will. *Story of Philosophy*. Pocket Publications, 1991. ISBN: 100671739166

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco: Harper, 2001. ISBN: 0060652926

Morris, Thomas, ed. *God and the Philosophers*. Oxford University Press, 1996. ISBN: 0195101197

2. Plato. *The Republic*. Dover Publications, 2000. ISBN: 0486411214
Other
None

C. Course Policy and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Attendance/Participation	10%
Book Review	20
Term Paper	35%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
None.
3. Grade Scale:
90+ = A; 80+ = B; 70+ = C; 60+ = D; 59- = F

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.

2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
 - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her

work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.

- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
 4. Attendance
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for a three-semester hour class:
 - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)** Administrative excuses are granted only when a

student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.

- c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Introduction
2	Faith and Reason
3	Faith and Reason
4	Faith and Reason
5	Free Will
6	Free Will
7	The Self
8	The Self
9	God
10	God
11	History
12	History
13	Worldview
14	Worldview
15	What to Do
16	What to Do

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
THE 302—Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2015

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Evangelistic capability	X			
2B	Ethical behavior	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle			X	
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship		X		
4E	Leadership capacity		X		