Course Syllabus

Course	**PHIL 1301.002 Introduction *to* Philosophy**
Professor	Dr. Andy Amato
Term	Fall 2016
Meetings	TR 4:00pm – 5:15pm, JO 4.102

Professor Contact Information
My office hours, in JO 5.704, will be from 12:00pm-2:00pm on Thursdays, and by appointment. My email, which is the preferred means of communication, is: andy.amato@utdallas.edu

Teaching Assistant Contact Information
TBA

Course Prerequisites
None.

Course Description
Being an introduction, this course will chiefly consider what philosophy is at its foundation—*What is philosophy?* and *What does it mean to philosophize?* We will find that these seemingly simple questions resist easy answers, as there have been many ways and reasons for practicing philosophy over the past two and a half millennia. Yet, hopefully, we will discover that these questions—as well as the many questions philosophy asks about all areas of human life—are today more pressing than ever before. Toward these ends, we will read and discuss some of philosophy's most influential texts, works that have helped influence and challenge Western thought. These readings, along with our in-class discussions and lectures, will additionally teach us different methods or "styles" of doing philosophy (Rationalism, Idealism, Existentialism, Phenomenology, etc.), as well as some of the different disciplines, realms, or "branches" of philosophy (Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Technology etc.). Moreover, by reading and interpreting these works on our own time—and then discussing them together in class—we will develop critical reading and thinking skills, as well as enhance our writing ability. Such things help us not only in other academic endeavors, but also in our personal and professional lives too.

General Education Core Objectives
Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objectives:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication.

- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal responsibility -** Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequence to ethical decision-making.

PHIL 1301.001 Course Objectives
Students will learn:

- **Critical thinking skills;** to analyze and think critically about the texts of some of the most important philosophers of all times (assessed via the quizzes and essays)
- **Communication skills;** to articulate your own understanding of some of philosophy's seminal texts (assessed via participation in class discussion)
- **Social responsibility;** to become aware of philosophy's role in your life and its relation to science, culture, religion, and the arts (assessed via the quizzes and the essays)
- **Personal responsibility;** to compare and contrast the philosophical works with each other in terms of personal ethics and values (assessed via the second essay)

Required Texts
Plato, *The Republic* (W. W. Norton & Company, 1996) ISBN: 978-0393314670

Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations on First Philosophy*, 4th ed. (Hackett Publishing Company, 1999) ISBN: 978-0872204201

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Essential Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* (Modern Library, 2000) ISBN: 978-0679783220

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Nietzsche Reader*, Keith Ansell Pearson and Duncan Large, eds. (Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2006) ISBN: 978-0631226543

Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings*, Revised and Expanded Edition (HarperCollins, 1993) ISBN: 978-0060637637

Recommended Texts
Karl Jaspers, *Way to Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy* (Yale University Press, 2003) ISBN-13: 978-0300097351

Donald Palmer, *Looking At Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter* (McGraw-Hill) ISBN: 978-0078038266 (any recent edition should be fine)

NOTE: *Hard copies only. You must bring your book to class.*

Course Calendar

WEEK 1	**Topics & Assignments**	**Readings**
T 8/23	• Syllabus & Course Introduction	Plato, *Republic*, Book I
R 8/25		Plato, *Republic*, Book II
WEEK 2	**Greek Philosophy**	
T 8/30		Plato, *Republic*, Book III
R 9/1		Plato, *Republic*, Book IV
WEEKS 3	**Greek Philosophy**	
T 9/6		Plato, *Republic*, Book V
R 9/8		Plato, *Republic*, Book VI
WEEK 4	**Greek Philosophy**	
T 9/13		Plato, *Republic*, Book VII
R 9/15		Plato, *Republic*, Book VIII
WEEK 5	**Greek Philosophy**	
T 9/20		Plato, *Republic*, Book IX
R 9/22	• <mark>First Quiz on 9/23-24</mark>	Plato, *Republic*, Book X
WEEK 6	**Early Modern Philosophy**	
T 9/27		Descartes, *Meditations*
R 9/29		Descartes, *Meditations*
WEEK 7	**Early Modern Philosophy**	
T 10/4		Descartes, *Meditations*
R 10/6	• <mark>Second Quiz on 10/7-8</mark>	Descartes, *Meditations*
WEEK 8	**Transcendentalism**	
T 10/11	• <mark>First In-Class Essay on 10/11</mark>	Emerson, *Self Reliance*
R 10/13		Emerson, *Self Reliance*
WEEK 9	**Transcendentalism**	
T 10/18		Emerson, *An Address*

R 10/20	• <mark>**Third Quiz on 10/21-22**</mark>	Emerson, *An Address*
WEEK 10 T 10/25	**Proto-Existentialism**	Nietzsche, *The Greek State*
R 10/27		Nietzsche, *Homer's Contest*
WEEK 11 T 11/1	**Proto-Existentialism**	Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lies*
R 11/3		Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lies*
WEEK 12 T 11/8	**Proto-Existentialism**	Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*
R 11/10	• <mark>**Fourth Quiz on 11/11-12**</mark>	Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*
WEEK 13 T 11/15	**Existential Phenomenology**	Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
R 11/17		Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
WEEK 14 T 11/22	**Existential Phenomenology** **NO CLASS**	Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
R 11/24	**NO CLASS**	Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
WEEK 15 T 11/29	**Existential Phenomenology**	Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
R 12/1	• <mark>**Fifth Quiz on 12/2-3**</mark>	Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*
WEEK 16 T 12/6	**Concluding Thoughts & Reflections**	
R 12/8	<mark>**• Second In-Class Essay on 12/8**</mark>	

Dates to Remember: <mark>**First Quiz 9/23-24, Second Quiz 10/7-8, Third Quiz 10/21-22, Fourth Quiz 11/11-12, Fifth Quiz 12/2-3, First In-Class Essay 10/11, Second In-Class Essay 12/8**</mark>

Course Requirements/Evaluations Criteria:
Three factors will be used to determine the student's final grade: 1) **Participation**, 2) Five **Quizzes** (which will be taken on eLearning in the Testing Center), and 3) Two **In-Class Essays**. You will need **blue books** for the Essays. Attendance will be kept in order to evaluate the student's participation in class.

> **NOTE:** <u>Pop Quizzes may occur throughout the semester</u>. They will count toward students' Quiz total. (Only students with excused absences will not be held accountable for missed Pop Quizzes.) Participation will be determined through attendance and preparedness (which includes *bringing required texts to class*). Also, <u>the dates listed to cover certain materials will adjust in response to how quickly or slowly we make our way through certain texts</u>.

You can earn a maximum of 1,000 points in the course:

Participation	10%	100 points
Quizzes	50%	500 points (100 points each)
First In-class Essay	10%	100 points
Second In-Class Essay	30%	300 points

A+	98-100%	980-1,000 points
A	93-97%	930-979 points
A-	90-92%	900-929 points
B+	87-89%	870-899 points
B	83-86%	830-869 points
B-	80-82%	800-829 points
C+	77-79%	770-799 points
C	73-76%	730-769 points
C-	70-72%	700-729 points
D+	67-69%	670-699 points
D	63-66%	630-669 points
D-	60-62%	600-629 points
F	00-59%	000-599 points

1) The **Participation** Grade will be calculated as follows:

Number of Absences	Points
0-1	100
2	95
3	90
4	80
5	70
6	60
7	50
8+	0

Please Note: <mark>For the purposes of determining the participation grade, students who arrive 10 or more minutes after the start of class will be considered *absent*, as will students who attend without a hard copy of the required text</mark>

2) The five **Quizzes** will be online through eLearning and will be based upon assigned readings and in-class lectures. They will be taken at UTD's Testing Center: http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/testingcenter/index.html. They will usually be released at noon on the scheduled date, and be available for 24 hours (though still subject to the Testing Center's hours of operation).

3) The **In-Class Essays** will be written at mid-term and on the last day of regularly scheduled classes. While the topics and/or questions are yet to be determined, the prompts will require the student to articulate a personal and critical response to the readings and topics, and demonstrate an ability to reflect thoughtfully upon the social and ethical implications of the course material.

*If requested, **Extra Credit** will be considered on a case-by-case basis
and granted in light of student attendance and participation.*

NOTE: <mark>The use of electronic devices—phones, laptops, e-readers, etc.—are **prohibited**</mark>. Such devices should be put away during class time. Further, students are **required** to bring   their books to class, having completed the assigned readings for that class session.

Technical Support
If you experience any problems with your UT Dallas account you may email assist@utdallas.edu or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies, Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities
Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities.
Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/administration/risk/travel.php5. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

Student Conduct and Discipline
The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UT Dallas printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is available to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000*, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, and in *Title V, Rules on Student Services and*

Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at

http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html.

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

[Added July 2010] Students are expected to be attentive during class and to participate actively in group activities. Students are expected to listen respectfully to faculty and to other students who are speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in class. Classes may discuss issues that require sensitivity and maturity. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity
The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of *turnitin.com*, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (*Title 17, United States Code*) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe upon the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (UTDPP1043). For more information about the fair use exemption, see http://copyright.lib.utexas.edu/copypol2.html.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UT Dallas student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at UT Dallas provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Class Attendance
Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Absences may lower a student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the instructor. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

Withdrawal from Class
The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal from any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course inventory and in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or other instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures
Procedures for student grievances are found in university policy UTDSP5005 (http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5005). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originated.

Incomplete Grade Policy
As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services
It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for a course, please discuss it with an OSA staff member and allow at least one week's advanced notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health,

psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The primary functions of the Office of Student AccessAbility are to provide:

1. academic accommodations for students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability
2. non-academic accommodations
3. resource and referral information and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at (972) 883-2098, or by email at disabilityservice@utdallas.edu.

Religious Holy Days
The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, *Texas Code Annotated.*

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of *TEC 51.911(b)*, and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Avoiding Plagiarism
[Adapted from Duke University's guidelines for writers; added July 2010]
Take time to make careful choices among--and learn to use--the research tools available to you. You will probably find that your favorite web search engine is not adequate by itself for college-level research. Consult with your professor or a librarian. You may need to use specialized research tools, some of which may require learning new searching techniques.

Expect to make trips to the library. While you can access many of the library's resources from your home computer, you may find that you need to make several trips to use materials or research tools that are not accessible remotely. Of course, you will be seeking the best information, not settling for sources simply because they happen to be available online.

Allow time for gathering materials that are not available at UT Dallas. The InterLibrary Loan Office can borrow articles and books from other libraries, but this process takes additional time.

Allow time for reading, rereading, absorbing information, taking notes, synthesizing, and revising your research strategy or conducting additional research as new questions arise.

Sloppy note-taking increases the risk that you will unintentionally plagiarize. Unless you have taken note carefully, it may be hard to tell whether you copied certain passages exactly, paraphrased them, or wrote them yourself. This is especially problematic when using electronic source materials, since they can so easily be copied and pasted into your own document.

Identify words that you copy directly from a source by placing quotation marks around them, typing them in a different color, or highlighting them. (Do this immediately as you are making your notes. Don't expect to remember days or weeks later what phrases you copied directly.) Make sure to indicate the exact beginning and end of the quoted passage. Copy the wording, punctuation and spelling exactly as it appears in the original.

Jot down the page number and author or title of the source each time you make a note, even if you are not quoting directly but are only paraphrasing.

Keep a working bibliography of your sources so that you can go back to them easily when it's time to double-check the accuracy of your notes. If you do this faithfully during the note-taking phase, you will have no trouble completing the "works cited" section of your paper later on.

Keep a research log. As you search databases and consult reference books, keep track of what search terms and databases you used and the call numbers and URLs of information sources. This will help if you need to refine your research strategy, locate a source a second time, or show your professor what works you consulted in the process of completing the project.

You must cite direct quotes.

You must cite paraphrases. Paraphrasing is rewriting a passage or block of text in your own words. If you paraphrase, you must still cite the original source of the idea.

You must cite ideas given to you in a conversation, in correspondence, or over email.

You must cite sayings or quotations that are not familiar, or facts that are not "common knowledge." However, it is not necessary to cite a source if you are repeating a well known quote or familiar proverb. Common knowledge is something that is widely known. For example, it is widely known that Bill Clinton served two terms as president; it would not be necessary to cite a source for this fact.

These types of sources should be cited as well. Printed sources: Books, parts of books, magazine or journal articles, newspaper articles, letters, diaries, public or private documents; *Electronic sources*: Web pages, articles from e-journals, newsgroup postings, graphics, email messages, software, databases; *Images*: Works of art, illustrations, cartoons, tables, charts, graphs; *Recorded or spoken material*: Course lectures, films, videos, TV or radio broadcasts, interviews, public speeches, conversations.

Resources to Help You Succeed
The GEMS Center (located within the Conference Center) provides a wide array of free academic support and enhancement for UT Dallas undergraduate students. Offerings include, but are not limited to, a Math Lab and Writing Center, Peer Tutoring (with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math courses), test review sessions, and academic success coaching. The current menu of services, schedules, and contact information is posted on the GEMS website: http://www.utdallas.edu/ossa/gems/. [Added July 2010]