

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

---

### **PHIL 201**

#### **PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY IDEAS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the major positions and figures in philosophy and the cultural worldviews and practical applications that derive from them, focusing specifically on theism, naturalism and humanism in contemporary thought.

#### **RATIONALE**

PHIL 201's purpose extends beyond degree completion to the spiritual edification of Liberty University students both as disciples of Christ and ambassadors of the Christian faith. It equips students to defend their faith against the intellectual attacks of non-believers by exposing the issues and problems of philosophy.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

None

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Click the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio equipment with internet access (broadband recommended)
- B. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. List the divisions of philosophy.
- B. Recognize the major philosophical issues within the different divisions of philosophy.
- C. Recognize the major philosophical personalities within the different divisions of philosophy.
- D. Comprehend the major terms and concepts in philosophy.
- E. State a Christian philosophical viewpoint on major philosophical issues in his or her own words.

- F. Evaluate different movements and thinkers within each division of philosophy from a Christian worldview.
- G. Evaluate major philosophical problems and questions within each division of philosophy from a Christian worldview.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings, lecture notes, study guides, & Presentations
- B. Group Discussion Board Forums (5)

The student will complete five Group Discussion Board forums in this course. With the exception of the first forum, each forum has two parts: a thread and a reply. First, the student will answer the questions in the instructor’s prompt in an initial thread of approximately 250 words; then the student will reply, in approximately 100 words, to at least one other group member’s initial thread. Threads must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) Friday of the corresponding module, and replies must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) Monday of the corresponding module.

- C. Response Paper

The student will write a critical response to the article by H. J. McCloskey, titled "On Being an Atheist." The paper is to be a minimum of 1500 words (approximately six pages) and should reflect an understanding of material covered in the course. For complete instructions, see Course Content>Syllabus and Assignment Instructions>Assignment Instructions. This paper is due in Module/Week 8.

- D. Exams (5)

The student will complete five exams. Each exam must be completed in a forty-five minute session. The tests are closed-notes and closed-book. For exam preparation, study guides will be provided by the instructor.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

- A. Points

Group Discussion Board Forums (5 at 60 pts ea)	300
Response Paper	200
Exams (5 at 100 pts ea)	500

**Total**      1000

- B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Policies:

1. Students are expected to stay on schedule with the course. If a student cannot keep up with the schedule, he or she should notify the course instructor as soon as possible, to avoid being penalized.
2. Late assignments or tests will not be accepted unless a.) the student has received prior permission from the instructor at least 24 hours before the deadline or b.) it is due to an extreme emergency, outside of the student's control.
3. Respectful decorum is expected on all Discussion Boards. Students may disagree and voice their disagreements (in fact, they are encouraged to do so) but they must be respectful while disagreeing.
4. All tests are closed-book, and students are expected to be on their honor in following this policy.
5. There is no extra credit of any kind in this course.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

**VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Audi, Robert. ed. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York, NY: University Press, 1999. ISBN: 0-521-63722-8.
- Copleston, F. *A History of Philosophy*. 10 vols. New York, NY: Image Books, 1993.
- DeWeese, Garret. J. Moreland, J. P. *Philosophy Made Slightly Less Difficult: A Beginner's Guide to Life's Big Questions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-830-82766-8.
- Edwards, P. ed. *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 8 vols. New York, NY: Macmillian & Free Press, 1967. ISBN: 0-028-94950-1.
- Moreland, J. P.; Craig; and William, L. *Philosophical Foundations For a Christian World View*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-830-82694-7.
- Stumpf, S. E. *Socrates to Sartre*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1982. ISBN: 0-072-34760-0.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PHIL 201**

Textbooks: Evans, *Philosophy of Religion: Thinking About Faith* (2009).  
 Hasker, *Metaphysics: Constructing a World View* (1983).  
 Holmes, *Ethics: Approaching Moral Decisions* (2008).  
 Wood, *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous* (1998).  
 Woodhouse, *A Preface to Philosophy* (2006).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction to PHIL 201 Woodhouse: chs. 1–4 1 Article 6 Presentations 4 lecture notes	Course Requirements Checklist Group DB Forum 1 Thread Group DB Forum 2 Thread & Reply	0 60 40 20
<b>2</b>	Woodhouse: ch. 5 Hasker: chs. 1–2 Exam 1 Review Sheet 5 Presentations 3 lecture notes	Exam 1	100
<b>3</b>	Hasker: chs. 3–5 & Epilogue Exam 2 Review Sheet Reading for DB 3 2 Presentations 3 lecture notes	Group DB Forum 3 thread Group DB Forum 3 reply Exam 2	40 20 100
<b>4</b>	Wood: chs. 1–4 6 Presentations 3 lecture notes	Group DB Forum 4 thread Group DB Forum 4 reply	40 20
<b>5</b>	Wood: chs. 5-7 Evans: ch. 1 Exam 3 Review Sheet 3 lecture notes	Exam 3	100
<b>6</b>	Evans: chs. 2–3, 5 1 Presentation 3 lecture notes	None	—
<b>7</b>	Evans: ch. 7 Holmes: chs. 1–3 Exam 4 Review Sheet 1 Presentation 3 lecture notes	Group DB Forum 5 thread Group DB Forum 5 reply Exam 4	40 20 100

<b>8</b>	Holmes: chs. 4–8; 13–14 Exam 5 Review Sheet 1 Presentation 3 lecture notes	Response Paper Exam 5: Ethics	200 100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.