

Course Expectations Letter

Subject: Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy

E-Mail Contact Information:

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Catalog Course Description:

This course introduces the topics and questions of philosophy. Topics may include the nature of reality, the nature of knowledge, the nature of the self, the nature and existence of God, the foundations and application of ethics, and the role and justification of the State. Practical application and relevance will be emphasized. This course is appropriate for anyone seeking a broader program of philosophical study, or to fulfill general Humanities or Philosophy major requirements. Students will be taught the history of ideas, how to “do philosophy” themselves, and to appreciate the benefit of such activity.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Throughout this term, your performance on student learning outcomes will be evaluated. Outcomes to be assessed may include the following:

1. Given previous instruction in some theory of philosophical significance (e.g., determinism, utilitarianism, rationalism, etc.), the student will correctly identify and explain the basic elements of that theory.
2. Given an essay, chapter, or other philosophical text, the student will demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods by accurately identifying the main point and some key supporting points.
3. Given a theoretical orientation to a philosophical theory (e.g., determinism, utilitarianism, social contract, etc.), the student will correctly apply the basic elements of that theory to a "real life" scenario.
4. Given prior instruction on a topic of philosophical interest, the student will demonstrate the ability to formulate and defend a philosophical position by clearly articulating a thesis statement, and providing supporting points.
5. The student will demonstrate the ability to evaluate philosophers' teachings and doctrines by formulating and defending a critique of, while clearly articulating a thesis statement, and providing supporting points
6. The student will evaluate a studied philosophical argument or claim by employing at least one formal or informal standard for evaluation.
7. The student will demonstrate proficiency with the main terms, concepts, and definitions that pertain to the different branches of philosophy.
8. The student will develop a critical understanding of the work of central thinkers in the Western philosophical tradition and demonstrate this understanding by means of a competent paraphrase of their main ideas.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in [BP 5500 \(Standards of Conduct\)](#) and [AP 5520 \(Student Conduct Procedures\)](#) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to [Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore](#)

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

- Timely email response
- Regular course announcements and updates
- Timely feedback on quizzes and exams
- Timely feedback and interaction via the course discussion board
- On-campus office hour visits, as needed

Because this is a fully online course, it requires online participation. You should expect to make frequent visits to our class website to review the lecture notes and to take all of your quizzes and exams. If you are unwilling, or unable, to satisfy these demands, you should reconsider taking this course. All of our quizzes and exams must be taken online. If you are unfamiliar with the internet, or how to access and use our course website, you should seek assistance immediately. Since we have no scheduled in-person meetings, it is assumed that you are dedicating, on your own, the time at home, and online, to reading, reviewing, and studying.

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientations can be found at: <http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/>

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](#) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.