

# PHILOSOPHY 300: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

## FOLSOM LAKE COLLEGE, FALL 2025

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**Office Hours:** By appointment only, via Zoom: [lrccd.zoom.us/my/chungd](https://lrccd.zoom.us/my/chungd)

**Class Meets:** Online at <https://lrccd.instructure.com> (#15586)

**Required text:** Bailey, Andrew. *The Broadview Introduction to Philosophy Volume I: Knowledge & Reality* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2019). ISBN# 978-1-55481-401-5

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### College's Course Description

In this course, students will apply the critical thinking techniques of analysis, evaluation, and synthesis to areas of philosophical inquiry including meta-philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of religion, history of philosophy, and existentialism. Students will practice distinguishing fact from opinion, employing inductive and deductive reasoning, identifying logical errors and fallacies, and developing oral and written arguments to support their own philosophical perspectives or challenge the perspectives of others. The quality of the course's required writing will reflect the standards of a college-level writing course.

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<sup>1</sup> Every effort is made to communicate with you quickly, effectively, and accurately. I take this as an important element of my responsibility to you. However, my response may be delayed on holidays and on weekends.

## College's Learning Outcomes and Objectives for Phil 300

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- Distinguish fact from judgment and belief from knowledge.
- Construct arguments which demonstrate critical thinking and the mastery of inductive and/or deductive reasoning techniques.
- Critique arguments for logical errors or fallacies in language and thought.
- Evaluate assumptions and presuppositions by engaging in discussion about essential philosophical questions.
- Formulate oral and written arguments on major philosophical issues such as the existence or non-existence of God; the nature of truth; the requirements of reality; the concept of the self; the nature and limits of knowledge; and the nature of values: aesthetic, moral, and religious.

## Grade Breakdown

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### Breakdown of Points:

- Lecture Assignments – 105 points (10.5%)
- Quizzes – 210 points (21%)
- Discussion Posts – 185 points (18.5%)
- Live Discourse – 100 points (10%)
- Midterm – 200 points (20%)
- Final Exam – 200 points (20%)

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- *TOTAL – 1000 points (100%)*

### Scale:

- 900-1000 points – A (exceptional)
- 800-899 points – B (above average)
- 700-799 points – C (average)
- 600-699 points – D (below average)
- 0-599 points – F (failure)

## Technology Component

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It is your responsibility to ensure that you have regular and reliable access to the computing facilities necessary for this course. If you come across any technical difficulties (for example, when it comes to accessing Canvas), you should notify me as soon as possible. If the problem is more complex than my skills allow, please contact the Student Tech Support Desk by email: [falconhelp@flc.losrios.edu](mailto:falconhelp@flc.losrios.edu) or by phone: 916-608-6520.

## Accommodations and Support

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This course and material have been designed for universal access. If you have difficulty accessing any of the material, please let me know at your earliest experience of difficulty.

### Academic Support Services

The DSPS Office at Folsom Lake College “provides equal educational opportunities for students with physical, psychological, and learning disabilities.... Counseling, support services, and academic accommodations are provided to students who are eligible for the program.” If you believe that you require such related academic adjustments for this class, please contact the [DSPS Office](#), in order to learn and know what options are available to you.

You may also be interested in utilizing the resources from [EOPS, CARE, and NextUp](#).

### Student Health & Counseling Services

Your physical and mental health are important to your success as a college student. Please know that academic and personal counseling is available for you on campus. Visit [Counseling Services](#) for more information.

### Basic Needs Resources

If you find yourself in need of housing, food, technological support, or other basic needs, the College may be able to help! Feel free to contact the [Basic Needs Resources](#) center.

### Title IX

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. In the event that you choose to write, speak or otherwise disclose information about having experienced sexual misconduct/sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and specify that this violence occurred while you or the perpetrator were a Folsom Lake College student, federal and state laws require that I, in my capacity as a “responsible employee,” must notify the College’s Title IX Coordinator (see [Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures, Section 6.2](#)). The Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options and connect you with support resources, including possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Please be advised that you will not be forced to share information and your level of involvement will be your choice.

You may contact the Folsom Lake College Title IX Coordinator by email: [titleix@flc.losrios.edu](mailto:titleix@flc.losrios.edu), or by phone: 916-608-6688. More resources may be available from [Folsom Lake College’s Title IX website](#).

If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing the experience to me, you can speak confidentially by contacting the following resources:

- WEAVE Confidential Advocate, [weave@losrios.edu](mailto:weave@losrios.edu), 916-568-3011
- WEAVE 24/7 Hotline, 916-920-2952

### **PARTICIPATION IN THIS COURSE**

Your brain is like a muscle. Just like it is with any athletic sport, regular exercise of the mind is vital. If you don’t exercise it like you’re supposed to, there is a very high chance that you will not get the results that you were hoping for. Thus it is important to review the required course readings and PowerPoints, complete your work on a regular basis, and engage with your fellow classmates online. Please keep in mind that participation includes both communicating your own thoughts/arguments and reflecting upon and engaging with the thoughts/arguments of your fellow classmates.

### **Respect for One Another**

Some of our discussion topics are very important and personal subject matters. While passion for the subject is great, please be mindful of your words. Any comments/criticisms not made in the interest of academic pursuit are not tolerated.

## LATE WORK POLICY

Late assignments will lose 0.5 points for each hour that it is submitted late. The only circumstances that may excuse a late assignment are 1) death in the family; 2) debilitating illness or injury of yourself or an immediate family member; such as your child or spouse or 3) U.S. military service. Documentation must be provided for these excuses. *Computer problems are not legitimate excuses.* Please be sure to back up your work.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are responsible for knowing the policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, especially what counts as “plagiarism,” and what counts as “cheating” at Folsom Lake College. You may access this information online here:

<https://flc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-cheating>.

In addition to this, **I do have a no-AI-use policy.** Do not utilize, cite, or quote any AI source in assignments, even if you were to give appropriate credit and citation (note that this includes, but is not limited to, chatbots such as ChatGPT, paraphrasing tools such as Quillbot, and grammar tools such as Grammarly). In this course you are not allowed to use AI text generators or tools to assist you in any way on your assignments. Improper use of AI technology can be grounds for a charge of plagiarism or other academic misconduct, leading to academic penalties (like failing a course) and administrative penalties, regardless of when the academic misconduct is discovered.

In addition to using the plagiarism checks available to us at Folsom, this course will also use rapidly evolving technology (such as [Originality.ai](#)) to help detect whether student writing has been assisted by AI technology.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Readings

There will be assigned readings for you to do. For the most part, you should read one reading per week, and you will be quizzed on that reading.

Do note that these readings can be difficult. The PowerPoint lectures will help, but you may still need to go through the material more than once or twice. You are also always welcome to pose a question on the Canvas discussion forum, see me during office hours on campus, or send me an email. If you know anyone else who is enrolled in the same class, study groups help a lot!

### Lecture Content

Lectures are found on Canvas, and are a very important part of this course. The material on these slides help contribute and add to your understanding of the readings. There are several PowerPoints

for you to go through every week, and you are expected to have watched and listened to the material by the tail end of the module period.

Please keep in mind that there are assignments embedded within the lecture material. You will need to go through the lectures in order to access and complete the relevant assignments. These assignments are worth 15 points each, for a total of 105 points (10.5% of your overall course grade).

## Quizzes

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You will have quizzes during the course of the semester, which are based upon both the readings and the lecture content. Quizzes are *usually* due **near the end of each week, by 11:59pm**, and comprise a total of 210 points, or up to 21% of your overall course grade. There will be a total of 14 quizzes, worth 15 points each (2 quizzes per module). A schedule of the readings and their corresponding quizzes are found in the Schedule/Weekly Checklist, found at the end of this Syllabus.

Note that completion of all quizzes and exams will require the Honorlock Lockdown Browser. You may look at the textbook and any written notes in front of you to complete the quizzes and exams, but you are not allowed to access any other window or research any sources outside of the course readings and course lecture content while you complete these assignments.

If you run into problems with Honorlock, a “Common Problems” page is available on Canvas for you to consult in case of technical difficulties. There is also a sample quiz, in case you wanted to do a “test run.”

## Discussion Posts (Discussion Forums)

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Discussion posts will act as part of your course participation. Regular discussion posts are worth 175 points total, or 17.5% of your overall course grade. Each discussion post will generally come with a 200 word count requirement, and will include peer response posts (100-word-count requirement each), and replies to peer responses (no word count limit). More details regarding these discussion post assignments will be provided for you in Canvas.

In addition to these posts, you will have an “Introduce Yourself” discussion post to complete in the beginning of the semester, and a “Reflection” post to complete at the end of the semester (5 points each).

## Citing Sources

Please note that any assignment involving written work will require proper citations. The most important thing I look for is that you give credit to the authors and providing page numbers, or give credit to me (the author of your lectures) by providing PowerPoint slide numbers for all of your quotes and paraphrases. Failure to provide correct citations may be given point penalties, scanned in order to detect unauthorized AI use, and/or may be counted as “plagiarized.”

## Live Discourse

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In order to promote more engagement, you will be asked to join with a few other classmates to hold one live “roundtable discussion” via Zoom. The plan is to have these Live Discourses follow the

format of a podcast-style conversation. Participants should be prepared to talk about the lecture content and readings for the current module, by answering a set of questions (partly compiled by the group, and partly compiled by your professor). The conversation should last 30-60 minutes long, and will surround the course content covered in the current module.

There will be 6 or 7 discussions scattered throughout the semester (approximately one discussion per module). The date and times for these discussions will be scheduled once we can get a sense of what works best for students. When they are made available, there will be a self-signup made available in the “People” section of Canvas.

Please note that the Live Discourses will be recorded for the rest of the class to listen to, and interact with. If you are not part of the group, you will still be required to listen to the recording and provide feedback on this discussion in a Socrative poll.

If you would like to listen in to the conversation live, and your schedule allows for you to attend the Zoom session, you are certainly welcome to join in. You will even receive up to 4 points extra credit each for attending a Live Discourse as a listener, and participating in a Q&A session.

Please note that this assignment is worth 100 points, or up to 10% of your overall course grade. Group participation in the Live Discourse will count towards 50 points, and the other 50 points will be allocated towards listening to and engaging with peer Discourses.

## Exams

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You will have two exams in this course – a Midterm, and the Final Exam. The Midterm will require knowledge and comprehension of all course material covered in Modules A, B, C & D, and the Final Exam will require knowledge and comprehension of all course material covered in Modules E, F, and G. Each exam is worth 200 points each, or 20% of your overall course grade. Together, the exams will comprise 40% of your overall course grade.

Like the quizzes, exams will require the Honorlock Lockdown Browser.

## CALENDAR SCHEDULE

Please see the attached calendar below for a tentative schedule of our course. Note that the assigned (required) readings may be accessed either in Canvas or via your textbook, and that assignment details may be found in the relevant assignment sections in Canvas.

Note that this schedule currently does not include the Live Discourse Days (they will be scheduled when there is a better sense of student schedules, and will be posted on Canvas).

Also keep in mind that the schedule and deadlines are subject to change due to any unforeseen circumstances. If there are changes, I'll let you know!

## AUGUST 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25 (Wk 01)  <b>Semester begins!</b> Read the Syllabus  <b><u>Module A begins:</u></b> <b>INTRO &amp; ETHICS</b>	26  <b>For Module A, read &amp; watch lectures for:</b> King & Timmons (both readings in Canvas)	27	28	29  <i>Introduce Yourself Post due</i>  <b>King quiz due</b>

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 (Wk02)  NO SCHOOL (Labor Day Holiday)	2	3	4  <i>Discussion A Due</i>	5  <i>Peer responses due</i> Module A Lecture Assignments Due <b>Timmons quiz due</b>
8 (Wk03)  <u>Module B begins:</u> <b>GOD &amp; EVIL</b>  <i>Mod A ackno. posts due</i>	9  <b>For Module B, read &amp; watch lectures for:</b> Mackie (p. 72-80) & Plantinga (in Canvas)	10	11	12  <b>Mackie quiz due</b>
15 (Wk04)	16	17	18  <i>Discussion B Due</i>	19  <i>Peer responses due</i> Module B Lecture Assignments Due <b>Plantinga quiz due</b>
22 (Wk05)  <u>Module C begins:</u> <b>GOD &amp; EVIDENCE</b>  <i>Mod B ackno. posts &amp; Live Discourse polls due</i>	23  <b>For Module C, read &amp; watch lectures for:</b> Clifford (p. 99-106) & Aquinas (p. 19-27)	24	25	26  <b>Aquinas quiz due</b>
29 (Wk06)	30			

## OCTOBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b> <b>(Wk06)</b>			<b>2</b> <i>Discussion C Due</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Peer responses due</i> Module C Lecture Assignments Due <b>Clifford quiz due</b>
<b>6</b> <b>(Wk07)</b>  <u>Module D begins:</u> <b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; REALITY</b>  <i>Mod C ackno. Posts &amp; Live Discourse polls due</i>	<b>7</b>  <b>For Module D, read &amp; watch lectures for:</b> Plato (p. 128-133) & Descartes, Med. I & II (p. 143-150)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Plato quiz due</b>
<b>13</b> <b>(Wk08)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <i>Discussion D Due</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>Peer responses due</i> Module D Lecture Assignments Due <b>Descartes quiz due</b>
<b>20</b> <b>(Wk09)</b>  <b>MIDTERM PERIOD BEGINS</b>  <i>Mod D ackno. posts &amp; Live Discourse polls due</i>	<b>21</b>  Please spend this time studying for your upcoming Writing Assessment and Midterm exam	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>MIDTERM DUE</b> <b>(complete in Canvas)</b>
<b>27</b> <b>(Wk10)</b>  <u>Module E begins:</u> <b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; BIAS</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>For Module E, read &amp; watch lectures for:</b> Jaggar (in Canvas) & Saul (p. 244-254)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>Jaggar quiz due</b>

## NOVEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6 <i>Discussion E Due</i>	7 <i>Peer responses due</i> Module E Lecture Assignments Due <b>Saul quiz due</b>
10 (Wk11)  <u>Module F begins:</u> MIND, BODY & CONSCIOUSNESS  <i>Mod E ackno. posts &amp;</i> <i>Live Discourse polls due</i>	11  NO SCHOOL (Veteran's Day Holiday)	12  For Module F, read & watch lectures for: Ryle (p. 347-354) & Nagel (p. 374-381)	13	14
17 (Wk12)  <b>Ryle quiz due</b>	18	19	20	21
24 (Wk13)  <i>Discussion F Due</i>	25  <i>Peer responses due</i> Module F Lecture Assignments Due <b>Nagel quiz due</b>	26  <i>Mod F ackno. posts &amp;</i> <i>Live Discourse polls due</i>	27  NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Holiday)	28  NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Holiday)

## DECEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <b>Module G begins: FREE WILL, DETERMINISM &amp; MORAL RESPONSIBILITY</b>	2 <b>For Module G, read &amp; watch lectures for: Haji (p. 429-436) &amp; Wolf (p. 468-478)</b>	3	4	5 <b>Haji quiz due</b>
8 (Wk15)	9	10	11 <i>Discussion G Due</i>	12 <i>Peer responses due Module G Lecture Assignments Due Wolf quiz due</i>
15 (Wk16)  <b>Reflection post due Mod. G ackno. posts &amp; Live Discourse polls due</b>	16	17	18 <b>FINAL EXAM OFFICIAL DUE DATE (unofficially extended to tomorrow, by 11:59pm)</b>	19  <b>(please have your final exams completed by tonight)</b>
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31	JAN 1	JAN 2  <b>Fall Grades Due</b> (this means your final grades should be posted by midnight)