**Philosophy 1100: Inquiry, Argument, and Debate**

**CRN: 15605**

**Class Meetings:** Monday and Wednesday, 9:30–10:45 a.m.

**Room:** Brown Hall 4025

**Instructor:** Grecia Sánchez

**Email**: grecia.sanchezblanco@wmich.edu

**ABOUT THIS COURSE**

**Class Objectives:** Intended for non-majors, this course will focus on the speaking and listening skills important for university inquiry and learning. Students will learn about the structure of sound arguments, compelling speech, and the importance of persuasive presentations through classical studies about dialectic and oratory. They will also participate in active class discussions debating contemporary issues and topics. Students are required to come to class prepared through digitally based internet research to examine and marshal arguments on an array of both contemporary and classical issues. Each student will present a class project which will be evaluated according to the insights of the argument, the effectiveness of the evidence advanced, and the persuasiveness of the presentation. Students enrolling in the course should expect to attend class routinely, participate actively in class discussions, and complete assigned readings faithfully. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**ESSENTIAL STUDIES LEVEL, CATEGORY, AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

PHIL1100 is a 3-credit Essential Studies Foundational (Level1) course in the Oral and Digital Communication category. The Essential Studies learning objectives for this course are:

1) Demonstrate effective and appropriate oral and digital communication abilities.

2) Demonstrate and apply information literacy.

In addition to the WES SLOs above, a student who successfully completes PHIL 1100 will be able to:

1) Identify and create valid arguments.

2) Clarify claims in arguments.

3) Reach insightful conclusions.

4) Utilize digital communication techniques to create persuasive presentations.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

There is no required textbook for this course. Readings will be posted to Elearning or distributed in class.

**CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR**

If you need to contact me, Western Michigan University requires that you do so through your WMU email account. I check my email regularly and respond in a timely manner. However, please allow at least 48 hours for me to respond to your email. I answer emails during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) are not permitted in this classroom without permission from me. Please remember to silence your phone upon entering the classroom. Violating any of these policies can result in loss of participation points.

**CLASS DISCUSSION AND ETIQUETTE**

In this class, discussion is one of the primary methods by which we learn. We will be discussing topics that can be controversial and it is important to maintain a safe environment where people can express their views. Students are expected to discuss these topics in a respectful and ethical manner.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Disability Services for Students at (269) 387-2116 or on its website. After the appropriate documentation is submitted to the office of Disability Services for Students, you should schedule a meeting with me to discuss these accommodations.

**BRONCO STUDY ZONE**

If you would like to get some study help, try the Bronco Study Zone. Peer tutors are available to help you.

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities are in the Undergraduate Catalog at http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=22&navoid=882

If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be **reported** to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s) and if you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Cheating: intentionally using unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.
2. Fabrication: Intentional invention and unauthorized alteration of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
3. Multiple Submission: submitting the same work for credit more than once without permission.
4. Plagiarism: intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as your own work. This includes the work of your colleagues.

**LATE WORK**

Late work will **not** be accepted without prior communication. If you think you will not be able to meet a deadline, you must communicate with me ASAP.

**WITHDRAWAL AND INCOMPLETES**

**Late withdrawal** is reserved for students who have a passing grade in the class and cannot complete the course because of circumstances beyond their control. Late withdrawal cannot be granted during the final week of classes or during exam week.

An **incomplete** may be granted when a student has completed most of the coursework with a passing grade and circumstances beyond their control prevent completion of the course.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF COURSE CONTENT**

Course materials prepared by the instructors including lectures, study guides, and other written and oral presentations are the property of the instructor. These may not be recorded by video or tape without specific permission from Grecia Sanchez. Electronic devices must be turned off during class time (including phones). You may not sell lecture notes or profit from them in any other way.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at lectures is required. You will not do well in the course if you miss class. Legitimate reasons for missing lecture are:

 \* Documented illness (get a note from your doctor or from Sindecuse).

 \* Serious family emergency: contact me, then provide documentation.

 \* Religious holiday: If you need to be excused from lecture due to a religious holiday, please let the instructor know one week in advance.

**ELEARNING**

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Elearning. I will insert all grades in this system. Therefore, I recommend checking Elearning often. To access the Elearning page, visit http://elearning.wmich.edu/ and log in with your Bronco NetID and password. From there, click on the PHIL 1100 link.

**Covid-19**

Safety requirements are in place to minimize exposure to the Western Michigan University community. These guidelines apply to all in-person and hybrid classes held inside a WMU building to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, and staff during the pandemic. Noncompliance is a violation of the class requirements and the Student Code. https://wmich.edu/conduct/code

* Facial coverings (masks), **over both the nose and mouth**, are required for all students while in-class, no matter the size of the space. Following this recommendation can minimize the transmission of the virus, which is spread between people interacting in close proximity through speaking, coughing, or sneezing. During specified classes in which facial coverings (masks) would prevent required class elements, students may remove facial coverings (masks) with instructor permission, in accordance with the exceptions in the Facial Covering (mask) Policy ("such as playing an instrument, acting, singing, etc."). https://wmich.edu/policies/facial-covering-mask
* Facial coverings (masks) must remain in place throughout the class. Any student who removes the mandatory facial covering (mask) during class will be required to leave the classroom immediately.
* Students who are unable to wear a facial covering (mask) for medical/disability reasons must contact Disability Services for Students before they attend class. https://wmich.edu/disabilityservices

**ASSIGNMENTS and REQUIRED COURSE WORK**

1. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Student attendance and active participation is required in all classes. Completing reading assignments is crucial to in-class discussions. Furthermore, there will be several in-class participation assignments throughout the semester. Participation includes bringing appropriate materials to class, respecting other students and the instructor, arriving to class on time, and being awake and attentive for the entire class period. If you do come late, do so quietly and take the nearest open seat available. Habitual lateness will result in loss of participation points. If you need to leave class early, you must speak to the instructor BEFORE class begins.
2. READING: Short readings will be given throughout the semester. You are responsible for completing the required reading prior to coming to class. This will prepare you to actively engage in the class discussion.
3. READING RESPONSES: From time to time, students will need to submit reading responses following class material. These will include an argument in standard form, an objection, and a response to an objection raised from the argument.
4. MIDTERM: This will be an in-class exam.
5. CLASS PRESENTATION: A major emphasis of the course will be the preparation of a class presentation of approximately 15 minutes using video and/or digital resources and advancing a persuasive statement about an issue.
6. QUIZZES/EXTRA CREDIT: There will be 3-question surprise quizzes for students to get up to three free points. These points can count toward the midterm grades, presentation, or any other assignment that the student wishes to use their points on. If a student fails a quiz, it won’t count against them (the quizzes are meant to only benefit students).

**GRADING:**

Attendance and Participation: 25 points

Reading Responses: 25 points

Midterm: 25 points

Presentation: 25 points

 The grading scale is as follows:

92% and up **A**

85%-91% **BA**

78%-84% **B**

71%-77% **CB**

64%-70% **C**

57%-63% **DC**

50%-56% **D**

Below50% **E**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Prepare for class by doing the readings and assignments indicated for each class.

Readings will be posted to E-learning. **Note, this schedule is subject to change!!!**

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| Week | Date | Content |
| 1 | Jan. 10-12 | Syllabus, Intro to Critical Thinking |
| 2 | Jan. 17-19 | Intro to Arguments: Validity and Soundness |
| 3 | Jan. 24-26 | Intro to Fallacies |
| 4 | Jan. 31-Feb. 2 | Plato and Aristotle (**Reading Response** due at the end of week) |
| 5 | Feb. 7-9 | Ethical Questions: Contemporary Issues (**Reading Response** due at the end of week) |
| 6 | Feb. 14-16 | Ethical Questions: Contemporary Issues  |
| 7 | Feb. 21-23 | **Midterm**  |
| 8 | Feb. 28-Mar. 2 | Ethical Questions: Contemporary Issues  |
| 9 | Mar. 7-9 | Spring Break |
| 10 | Mar. 14-16 | Ethical Questions: Contemporary Issues (**Reading Response** due at the end of week) |
| 11 | Mar. 21-23 | Big Questions: Epistemology and Metaphysics (**Reading Response** due at the end of week, APPROVAL FOR PRESENTATION TOPIC) |
| 12 | Mar. 28-30 | Big Questions: Personal Identity  |
| 13 | Apr. 4-6 | Class presentations |
| 14 | Apr. 11-13 | Class presentations |
| 15 | Apr. 18-20 | Class presentations |

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| **Refunds** |
| **Last day to receive a 100% refund** |  | **Jan. 14** |  |
| **Last day to receive a 90% refund for a complete withdrawal\*\*** |  | **Jan. 21** |  |
| **Last day to receive a 50% refund for a partial withdrawal\*\*\*** |  | **Jan. 25** |  |
| **Last day to receive a 50% refund for a complete withdrawal\*\*** |  | **Feb. 7** |  |
| **Last day to receive a 25% refund for a complete withdrawal\*\*** |  | **March 7** |  |