**Inquiry, Argument, and Debate**

**Philosophy 1100 (CRN 44136)**

**Class meets MW 9:30-10:45 @ Brown 4010**

**Fall 2022**

**Course Description:** 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, elements of compelling speech, and they will also work toward providing solutions to real world problems where there is moral tension. Students 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. By the end of this class, students will be able to identify relevant facts in cases, correctly apply moral theories and principles to these cases, and propose moral solutions for the cases. 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 work faithfully. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Instructor:** Ms. Grecia Sánchez

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Moore Hall 3007

Virtual Office Hours by Appointment

**Policy for Contacting Me:** The best way to get a hold of me is through email. If you email me, I will get back to you within 48 business hours. If it has been over 48 business hours and I have not responded, please email me again. If it is an URGENT message, please put URGENT in the subject of the email, and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

**Class Website:** We will be using Elearning throughout the semester. 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.

**Required Texts:** All required texts will be made available on E-learning.

**Electronic Policy:** You may not use computers, tablets, phones, etc. without permission. If one of the readings that we are using for the class are online, you may use your electronics to access the reading.

**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.

**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.

**Language Diversity Statement:** Diverse languages and dialects are welcome in this classroom. As we communicate with one another, keep in mind that the reader/listener should work as hard as the writer/speaker in the communication process. This means that we will listen patiently, work to understand one another, seek out clarification when necessary and avoid finishing each other's sentences or correcting grammatical errors unless invited to do so.

**Assignments and Required Course Work:** Your courseload will consist of the following

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/Cases**: 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. **Final 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. This final presentation will be your final exam.
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 and Grading Scale:**

Attendance/Participation: 25 points

Reading Responses: 25 points

Midterm: 25 points

Final Presentation: 25 points

This course uses a standard scale:

92% and up A

85%-91% BA

78%-84% B

71%-77% CB

64%-70% C

57%-63% DC

50%-56% D

Below 50% E

**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.

**Late Work:** I believe in self-advocacy. If you are ill, have an emergency, or are otherwise unable to submit an assignment by its deadline, please let me know before that deadline. If something prevents you from talking to me beforehand, let me know as soon as you possibly can afterward, and we’ll see if we can work something out. I may be open to accepting late work at a 20% penalty—depending on the circumstances.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Religious Observances Policy**: The following is WMU’s policy regarding its commitment to recognizing and accommodating the diverse student populace with respect to their religious observances: “The University is a diverse, multicultural enterprise and—as a community—we jointly embrace both individual responsibility and dignified respect for our differences. It is our general policy to permit students to fulfill obligations set aside by their faith. It is our intent that students who must be absent from scheduled classes to fulfill religious obligations or observe practices associated with their faith not be disadvantaged. However, it is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with his or her instructors in advance.

It is in the student’s best interests to approach each instructor expeditiously and with sufficient notice that the rights and responsibilities of the instructor are not disrupted. Instructors should make it known to classes early in the term what they consider reasonable notice for anticipated absences. Without specifying a fixed notification time, we acknowledge in this policy joint responsibility—instructors will inform students of their requirements and students will make every effort to cause no disruption in the instructors’ plans and duties. Instructors should assume that a claim of religious observance has veracity, especially when advance notice is provided by the student. Students likewise must recognize that it is their responsibility to meet all their course obligations. Instructors are not obligated to provide materials to students unless these materials would have normally been distributed to the entire class. For example, if an instructor does not normally post notes a student cannot expect notes to be provided for lectures missed.”

**Sexual Harassment, Assault, Contact, Exploitation:** Students and instructors are responsible for making themselves aware of and abiding by the “Western Michigan University Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Policy and Procedures” related to prohibited sexual misconduct under Title IX, the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Under this policy, responsible employees (including instructors) are required to report claims of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or designee (located in the Office of Institutional Equity). For more information, see www.wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Many victims/survivors prefer to seek confidential support and services. The YWCA offers 24/7, free support, which will inform and empower you to decide what options to pursue—emotional support, evidence collection (rape kit), pregnancy and STI tests, emergency contraception, counseling, filing a police report, seeking a protection order, initiating criminal prosecution, and/or reporting to WMU. The YWCA crisis line, available 24 hours, is (269) 385-3587.

If you’ve experienced sexual or gender-based violence, and wish to have WMU investigate and take action, you may contact the Office of Institutional Equity directly at (269) 387-6316 or ask someone (preferably someone you trust) to report on your behalf.

**Workload:** While I do not expect you to understand everything that you have read, please note that some of the assigned readings can be challenging. As such, please make sure you are allowing for enough time to work through the materials. I recognize that you will have obligations outside of this class that may sometimes conflict with this class. I strive to introduce you to a variety of philosophical questions and within this field of philosophy and help you develop important philosophical skills necessary for this course, while also making sure you balance your obligations outside of this class.

**Disclaimer:** I reserve the right to make any changes to the course (content, grading, etc.). Further, I reserve the right to establish fair procedures for grading for students in exceptional cases. All and any modifications to this syllabus will be in accordance with WMU policies and will be posted and distributed in a timely manner.

**Course Schedule:**

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| Week | Date | Topic | Readings, Due Dates, & Information |
| Part 1: Theoretical Reasoning | | | |
| Week 1 | August 31 | Introduction to the course | **READ:** Syllabus |
| Week 2 | Sept. 5-7  (No class on Sept. 5 due to Labor Day) | Arguments: Deductive & Inductive | **READ:** John Corvino, “The Fact/Opinion Distinction,” from *Philosopher’s Magazine*  **WATCH:** CrashCourse’s How to Argue Philosophical Reasoning at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs |
| Week 3 | Sept. 12-14 | Arguments: Validity & Soundness | **WATCH:** Dan Cohen’s TEDTalk “For Argument’s Sake” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTN9Nx8VYtk |
| Week 4 | Sept. 19-21 | Fallacies | **WATCH:** 15 Logical Fallacies from the 2020 U.S. Presidential Debates at  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gm-GMIjNpo |
| Week 5 | Sept. 26-28 | Identify Arguments | **DUE:** Argument and Logic Worksheets by the end of the week |
| Part 2: Practical Reasoning | | | |
| Week 6 | Oct. 3-5 | Natural Law Theory | **READ:** Cases for the 26th APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship  **WATCH:** Crash Course’s Video on Natural Law Theory (link on Elearning)  **DUE:** Reading Response 1 |
| Week 7 | Oct. 10-12 | **Midterm Week** | **READ:** MidtermReview  **DUE:** Reading Response 2 |
| Week 8 | Oct. 17-19 (No class on Oct. 19 due to Fall Break) | Utilitarianism & Kantianism | **READ:** Cases for the 26th APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship  **WATCH:** Crash Course’s Videos on Utilitarianism and Kantianism (links on Elearning)  **DUE:** Reading Response 3 |
| Week 9 | Oct. 24-26 | Virtue Ethics and Care Ethics | **READ:** Cases for the 26th APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship  **WATCH:** Crash Course’s Videos on Virtue Ethics and Care Ethics (links on Elearning)  **DUE:** Reading Response 4 |
| Week 10 | Oct. 31-Nov. 2 | Propose Moral Solutions to Cases | **READ:** Cases for the 26th APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Championship  **DUE:** Worksheets and Reading Response 5 (Topic Approval) by the end of the week |
| Part 3: Final Presentations | | | |
| Week 11 | Nov. 7-9 | Final Presentations | **DUE:**  Final Presentation on Elearning Dropbox by the end of the week |
| Week 12 | Nov. 14-16 | Final Presentations | **DUE:** Final Presentation on Elearning Dropbox by the end of the week |
| Week 13 | Nov. 21-23  (Thanksgiving) | Final Presentations | **DUE:** Final Presentation on Elearning Dropbox by the end of the week |
| Week 14 | Nov. 28-30 | Final Presentations | **DUE:** Final Presentation on Elearning Dropbox by the end of the week |
| Week 15 | Dec. 5-7 | Final Presentations | **DUE:** Final Presentation on Elearning Dropbox by the end of the week |