

# Pima Community College

## Downtown Campus

**Syllabus**      **SPRING 2012**      **Phi 101- Introduction to Philosophy**  
**for:**

**Section code (CRN):** 20439

**Class Meeting Days/Times:** Monday, Wednesday 5:30pm – 6:45pm

**Class Location:** AH 220

**Instructor:** Kent Slinker, M.A. Philosophy

**Office hours/availability:** By appointment

**Phone/voicemail:** 206-7314 (text: 245-1656)

**Email address:** [kslinker@pima.edu](mailto:kslinker@pima.edu)

**Class website :** <http://kslinker.com>

**Add deadline date:** Jan. 23

**Drop/Refund deadline date:** Jan. 30

**Withdrawal deadline:** April 5

**Final exam date:** n.a.

**Last Day of Class:** May 14

### **Course Description**

Survey of Western Philosophy. Includes primary source readings in western philosophic areas: logic, epistemology, ethics, social/political philosophy, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, philosophy of science, and aesthetics. Prerequisite(s):

### **Course Objectives**

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

- Describe the application of a philosophic method using logic.
- Relate an analysis of the concepts of epistemology.
- Describe the claims of ethics.
- Compare social/political philosophies.
- Examine the issues concerning philosophy of religion.
- Distinguish metaphysical systems.
- Discuss philosophy of science.
- Classify aesthetic positions.

### **Course Outline:**

- I. Logic
  - A. Definition of an argument
  - B. Definition of an inference

- C. Inductive reasoning/deductive reasoning
  - D. Formal fallacies/informal fallacies
- II. Epistemology
- A. Rationalism
  - B. Empiricism
  - C. Intuitionism
  - D. Analytic claims
  - E. Synthetic claims
  - F. A priori claims
  - G. A posteriori claims
- III. Ethics
- A. Nature of normative claims
  - B. Prescriptive
  - C. Descriptive
  - D. Instrumental
  - E. Intrinsic
- IV. Social/Political Philosophy
- A. Nature and legitimacy of authority
  - B. Absolutism
  - C. Theocracy
  - D. Democracy
  - E. Utilitarianism
  - F. Fascism
  - G. Communism
  - H. Anarchism
- V. Philosophy of Religion
- A. Nature and meaning of religion
  - B. Meaning of " God "
  - C. Classical arguments for the existence of God
  - D. Critiques of the Classical arguments
- VI. Metaphysics
- A. Nature of mind and body
  - B. Existence of other minds
  - C. Nature of reality and ultimate reality
  - D. Free will
- VII. Philosophy of Science
- A. Scientific method
  - B. Aristotle's philosophy of science
  - C. Axioms
  - D. Scientific revolution
  - E. Causation
- VIII. Aesthetics
- A. Nature of beauty
    - 1. Objective
    - 2. Subjective
  - B. Emotionalism vs. functionalism
  - C. Theories of art criticism

**Required Text Book(s)**

The Philosopher's Way: Thinking Critically about Profound Ideas  
 by Chafee, John. Prentice Hall: 2005  
 ISBN 0-13-048069-X

This textbook may be obtained at the Pima Downtown Campus Bookstore. *Any edition may be used.* However, slight changes may occur between editions, if your edition does not match the section numbers listed on our course website, ask me for clarification.

### **Required Materials:**

Many additional reading materials will be posted on the class website (<http://kslinker.com>) as the class progresses.

Students who do not have access to the web should arrange computer time at any of Pima Community College Campus Library computer labs .

### **Optional Materials**

Some optional resources for further study and research will be posted on the website. These will be marked as optional sources.

### **ADA Compliance Statement**

Pima Community College in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act offers reasonable accommodations, including material in alternative formats to qualified students with appropriate disability documentation. To obtain a reasonable accommodation, students must be registered with a campus Disabled Student Office (DSR) who will verify, identify and authorize implementation. Accommodations cannot be made without verification of need. The DSR office telephone number is 206-6688.

### **Class Preparation and Policies**

Students should read and be familiar with assigned readings *before* class.

**\*No cell phones or laptops may be used in class.**

**\*No texting.**

Class is a time for learning, not communicating with friends outside of class or logging onto facebook or other sites. Please tell your friends your class schedule, so they do not tempt you with endless texting. If you must communicate with someone in emergency situations, please quietly leave the classroom to do so. Students who violate this policy will be warned. If they continue to violate this policy, they will be asked to leave class. Basically the classroom is for learning, not taking care of personal business or whims, or checking out the latest update on Facebook. If you can not abide by these policies, consider taking another class.

### **Class Attendance**

Class attendance is a must (see grading policy for percentage of total grade)

Class attendance will be checked by a sign-in sheet.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of how their attendance will affect their total grade (again, see the sample grade calculation below)

Please note, the *most common cause for students receiving a low or failing grade is poor attendance.*

### **Assignments:**

#### **Quizzes:**

There will be a quiz given in class that covers the assigned reading on a weekly basis.

Missed quizzes can not be made up.

The lowest two scores will be dropped.

### **Discussion/Debates**

We will debate issues that come up in the course of this class. The purpose of these debates is not to win, but to become familiar with the best sides of a given argument. Hence, debate material must be taken primarily from the arguments given in the book, and re-stated in your own terms (and possibly strengthened by your own additions and examples)

Students will be assigned a debate group and a side they will have to support and defend. Time will be given in class to prepare your strategy and chose a spokesperson for your side.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is a necessity, and will be checked by an sign in sheet on a random basis.

## Grading Procedures and Policy

The grading scale will be as follows:

- **Quizzes - 50% of final grade.**
- **Attendance - 30% of final grade**
- **Discussion – 20% of final grade**

Final Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

60 and below is a failing.

Sample grade calculation:  $[(\text{Attendance grade\%} \times 30\%) + (\text{Quizzes\%} \times 50\%) + ((\text{Discussion grade\%} \times 20\%))] = \text{FINAL GRADE}$

## Student Withdrawal “W” Grades

Students may withdraw from class without instructor permission through **April 5**. This can be done on-line or by submitting a “Registration Form” at any Pima College Campus. Students who withdraw receive a “W” as a grade. For further information on how withdrawing will affect your academic record or financial aid, please see an advisor or counselor.

It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course before the above stated deadline. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a grade of “F” for the semester.

## Incomplete “I” Grades

You may request a grade of "I" only if all of the following conditions are met: you have earned at least 70% of the available points at the time of your request, your request is made in writing to the instructor and is received by the instructor by **April 5**, and the conditions of your request indicate an extraordinary and verifiable condition to which merits special consideration (for example: death of immediate family member or serious illness to you)

## “AU” Audit Grades

Auditing a PCC class means that you enroll, attend and do work for the class but do not expect to receive credit or a grade. To audit the class, you need the instructor’s permission and signature on an audit request form from any campus admissions office. This form and appropriate payment must be returned to the admissions office for admission. An audit registration cannot be completed until the first day of class. You must complete your audit registration by the end of the add period for the class you wish to audit. The instructor is not required to grade assignments submitted by students who are auditing the class.

## Final Grades

For privacy and security reasons, instructors are advised NOT to give grades over the telephone or via email. Please note: I will only email student grades to Pima Community College email addresses assigned to the student.

Students who wish to check grades may use the grade report which they can access through MyPima.

### **Class Calendar**

See our class website, available by clicking on the appropriate link at <http://kslinker.com>

### **Standards of Academic Progress:**

Students are expected to make satisfactory academic progress. Review the Standards of Academic Progress at <http://www.pima.edu/academicprogress/index.shtml> to understand the criteria and consequences. Consider talking to an advisor and financial aid before deciding if a "W" is the grade that best suits your needs and goals.

### **FERPA Statement:**

Subject to certain exceptions set forth in the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, Pima Community College will not provide personally identifiable student information (including but not limited to grades, billing, tuition and fees assessments, financial aid and other student records) to third parties absent the student's consent. Third parties include parents, spouses and third-party sponsors. You (the student) may grant Pima Community College permission to release certain information to a third party by submitting the FERPA Release form. Ask your instructor for a copy of the form BEFORE you arrive with a third party.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Pima Community College believes in continually improving our educational programs. As part of this process, we measure the relevance of our programs and the effectiveness of our teaching. Part of this course may involve an assessment of your achievement of Student Learning Outcomes that will be used to help us improve student learning.

### **Caveats**

What to expect and not expect from a study of Philosophy:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the major themes in Philosophy through readings, online lectures, discussion group correspondence and audio and visual presentations. Philosophy is perhaps one of the oldest academic disciplines and has a set of major divisions and important sub-divisions which include Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic, and Ethics to name a few.

Philosophy is not the study of one's personal beliefs or opinions concerning the sometimes controversial subjects discussed in Philosophy. In other words, do not enter this class thinking all it will require is a simple essay on your part which expresses your uncritical beliefs on the assigned reading or topic(s). This class will require time and effort, thought and interaction, just like any other class taken online or in the classroom. As the instructor, I try to be as permissive as I can to accommodate student schedules, but in the end, there is no replacement for time spent on careful weekly reading and reflection - and one can get behind in this class just like any other class - and catching up can be just as difficult, and yes, it is possible to fail this class! Remember, that online classes are not to be seen as requiring less time than a traditional classroom course. In a classroom course, the student must spend about 3 hours a week, in addition to homework and readings done outside of class! You can expect to spend the same amount of time for an online course, the major difference is that you get to decide when to study and do the work! Students who wait until the last minute almost always receive a poor grade! Remember this is a college course - self discipline will be key to getting a good grade. While it is very hard to fail the course (if you do all the work), it is equally hard to get an A! This is not a "pay your fee, get your B class"!

Two other important points.

We will examine material in this class which some may consider controversial. Specifically, as a part of Metaphysics we will look at arguments for the existence of god, and another point of view that is contrary to those arguments. We will examine the problem of human suffering (a.k.a. "the problem of evil") as it relates to Religious belief and Ethical attitudes. For some students, discussion human suffering is difficult, and each student should decide whether such a discussion will be appropriate for them. No student will ever be graded according to their personal beliefs on these matters, but you will be graded for your ability to read and to fairly characterize and summarize points of view that may go contrary to your own beliefs. This is part of academic maturity. Please keep this in mind - if you feel you can not examine and read such essays fairly, this course is not for you!

That said, I feel Philosophy is one of the most important classes a student can take in his or her lifetime, and I hope this general introduction to the discipline will inspire students to take other Philosophy classes in the future. Remember this is an introductory course, and just like an introductory course in any discipline, the student will be left with many unanswered questions, or questions simply not addressed in this 8 week term. My sincere hope is that students will take with them the quest for knowledge and understanding fostered by this introductory course and apply the insights gained in this course to other courses as well - and perhaps one day, when in a bookstore, the Philosophy section will catch your eye, and you will embark on your own quest for wisdom and knowledge which I hope will give you as much satisfaction in your life as it has in mine!

And finally. . .

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and will notify students of those changes in class.

**Student Code of Conduct  
Student Discipline Code and Due Process Procedures**

## **II. Student Code of Conduct and Code of Academic Ethics**

### **A. Code of Conduct and Academic Ethics Offenses**

#### **Academic Ethics Offenses**

A student shall not cheat or engage in any other academic ethics violation. Cheating and academic ethics violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Copying from another student's test paper or knowingly allowing one's own test paper to be copied.
2. Using materials during a test that were not clearly authorized by the person giving the test.
3. Collaborating with another student during a test without permission.
4. Knowingly using, buying, selling, offering, transporting, or soliciting any of the contents of a test.
5. Taking a test for another student or permitting another student to take a test in one's place.
6. Bribing or attempting to bribe another person to obtain a passing grade or a better grade on a test or for a course.
7. Intentionally misconstruing facts or events on an evaluated exercise or assignment in a manner that results in a grade change.
8. Engaging in plagiarism, which includes representing the work of another person as one's own, including information downloaded from the Internet. The use of another person's words, ideas, or information without proper acknowledgement also constitutes plagiarism.
9. Obtaining from or giving to another student unauthorized assistance on any course work.
10. Compromising instructional and test materials by acquiring, using, or providing to others unauthorized instructional and/or testing materials.

#### **Code of Conduct Offenses (Other than Academic Ethics Offenses)**

A student shall not engage in a Code of Conduct violation. Code of Conduct offenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **Disruption, Assault and Related Offenses**

A student shall not:

11. Disrupt any educational activity or process including, but not limited to, interrupting, impeding, or causing the interruption or impediment of any class, lab, administrative activity, or College event.
12. Disturb the peace of the College by, among other things, fighting, causing excessive noise, or engaging in indecent or obscene behavior.
13. Initiate, cause or contribute to any false warning or false report of a fire, explosion, emergency or crime.
14. Endanger, threaten to cause physical harm to, or cause actual physical harm to (a) another person, (b) College property, or (c) the property of another person. . This section is intended to include (a) a student who threatens to cause harm to himself/herself and (b) all conduct or communications that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of intent to cause physical harm to a person or damage to a person's property.

### **Offenses Involving False Reports or Presentation of a False Document**

A student shall not:

15. Obtain College goods or services by making a false statement or by using or presenting a false or unauthorized document or a false identification card or paper.

### **Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Offenses**

A student shall not:

16. Smoke or chew tobacco in College buildings or other areas where such conduct is prohibited by law or College [Standard Practice Guide 2303-AA](#).
17. Smoke or chew tobacco at a College event or activity that does not occur on College property when such conduct is not permitted at the event or activity.
18. Consume, transfer, sell, possess or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage while (a) on College property or (b) at a College event or activity when such conduct is not permitted at the event or activity.
19. Consume, transfer, sell, possess or be under the influence of any controlled substance, illegal drug, or imitation controlled substance or possess legally prohibited drug paraphernalia. Notwithstanding the above, a student is not in violation of this Code provision if the student possesses or uses prescription medication that is prescribed to the student and is used only in conformance with the prescription.
20. Drive on College property while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### **Offenses Involving College IT Systems (Computers, Networks and Telephones)**

A student shall not:

21. Circumvent any College IT System security feature including hacking, probing, or attempting to break into other users' accounts.
22. In connection with a College IT System, obtain or use another person's account name, username or password unless specifically authorized to do so by a College administrator.

23. In connection with a College IT System, create, use or transmit a computer virus, worm, spyware or other type of malicious software.
24. In connection with a College IT System, allow another person to use one's account name, username or password unless specifically authorized to do so by a College administrator.
25. Alter, disrupt, or reconfigure any College IT system unless specifically authorized to do so by a College administrator. This prohibition includes (a) the unauthorized introduction of any new hardware, software, network device or telephone on a College IT system; (b) the unauthorized removal or reconfiguration of any College hardware, software, network device, or telephone from a College IT system; and (c) the unauthorized running of a IT server, whether virtual or physical, on any College IT System network.
26. Use a College IT system to access, view, download, create, store, send, or forward sexually inappropriate materials as defined by A.R.S. §38-448(A).
27. In connection with a College IT System, forge email or other electronic information or engage in any other conduct that is inappropriate or degrades the accuracy of student or other College data.
28. Engage in unauthorized access of any College IT system, any student data, or any other College data.
29. Access, view, download, create, store, send, or forward spam, pranks, pornographic or obscene images or words, or harassing, vulgar, threatening or intimidating messages on a College IT System.
30. Illegally download copyrighted material or violate any software license agreement or intellectual property rights in any College-related context.

### **Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Offenses**

A student shall not:

31. Engage in discriminatory conduct against a member of the College community on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status.
32. Engage in sexual harassment against a member of the College community, including, but not limited to, engaging in unwelcome physical and/or sexual contact or other conduct of a sexual nature that a reasonable person would know is unwelcome. Such conduct could include (a) repeated sexual advances, or propositions; (b) verbal harassment of a sexual nature, including lewd comments and/or sexual jokes or references; and/or (c) demeaning, insulting, intimidating, or sexually suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body. (See [Board Policy BP1503](#)).
33. Engage in harassing conduct that a reasonable person would understand to be unwelcome or offensive, including, but not limited to, stalking or bullying. Stalking means following another person or making repeated contacts with another person in a manner that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the other person's safety or the safety of that person's immediate family members or acquaintances. Bullying means engaging in conduct that involves physical assaults or threats of physical assault, intimidation, and/or harassment where the purpose or effect of the conduct is to exert dominance over another person.
34. Engage in any illegal sexual offense, including, but not limited to, sexual assault, public sexual indecency, or indecent exposure.

## **Offenses Involving Weapons**

A student shall not:

35. Use, possess, display, or store any weapon, dangerous instrument, explosive material or device, fireworks, bomb-making materials or dangerous chemical on College property, or at a College activity or event, unless specifically authorized by (a) an Arizona or federal statute governing law enforcement officers; (b) a written document signed by the campus President in situations where the weapon, dangerous instrument, or dangerous material is used for an academic, law enforcement, or other legitimate purpose and the presence of the item does not present an undue risk to the College community; or (c) A.R.S. §12-781, which provides that a person may store or transport a legally possessed firearm inside that person's locked and privately owned motor vehicle or inside a locked compartment on that person's privately owned motorcycle. Such firearm must not be visible from the outside of the motor vehicle or motorcycle.

## **Property and Related Offenses**

A student shall not:

36. Misuse, steal, misappropriate, or use or access without permission, property, data, records, equipment or services belonging to the College or to another person or entity.
37. Possess property one knows or has reason to believe is stolen or misappropriated.
38. Damage, destroy, or deface property, data, records or equipment belonging to the College or to another person or entity, including, but not limited to, taking down or defacing College authorized posters, handbills, or notices posted on College property, and damaging or defacing library materials.
39. Enter or occupy any College building, grounds, vehicle, or facility without proper authorization from a College employee to do so.
40. Block an entry to or exit from College property or a College event or activity without proper authorization from a College employee to do so.
41. Litter on College property or at a College activity or event.
42. Use, distribute, duplicate, modify, or possess any keys or pass cards issued for any building, facility, room, or other College property without authorization from the College to do so.

## **Offenses Involving the Violation of a Local, State or Federal Law**

A student shall not:

43. Violate any local state or federal law.
44. Violate the copyright laws. (See [SPG 2701/AA](#) Copyright Practice and Compliance)

## **Offenses Involving the Violation of a College Policy, Rule, SPG or Directive**

A student shall not:

45. Violate any College policy, regulation, or SPG.
46. Violate any College traffic or parking rule or regulation.
47. Fail to comply with the directions of College officials or agents, including law enforcement or security officers, acting in good faith in the performance of their duties. This includes failing to appear before a College administrator when directed to do so. This section is not intended to prohibit the lawful assertion of an individual's Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

### **Offenses Related to Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings**

A student shall not:

48. Violate the terms of any disciplinary sanction or restriction imposed on him/her as a result of a Code violation.
49. Interfere with any College student or employee disciplinary process, including, but not limited to, tampering with physical evidence, providing false testimony at a disciplinary meeting or hearing, or requesting or inducing another person to provide false information or withhold information at a meeting or hearing.

### **Miscellaneous Offenses**

A student shall not:

50. Fail to obtain approval from the Office of Student Life prior to (a) posting or distributing information of any kind on College property or at a College event or activity; (b) engaging in commercial solicitation on College property or at a College event or activity; or (c) selling merchandise on College property or at a College event or activity unless specifically authorized by the College to do so.
51. Fail to reasonably supervise, and provide for the care of, a minor child in the custody or control of the student when the minor child is on College property or at a College event or activity.

### **Attempted Misconduct and Conspiracy Offenses**

A student shall not:

52. Attempt to engage in conduct prohibited by this Code. A student who engages in attempted misconduct can be disciplined to the same extent as if the student completed the prohibited act.
53. Join with others in a conspiracy to engage in conduct prohibited by this Code. A student engages in a conspiracy when the student (a) agrees with others to engage in a plan or scheme that violates the Code and (b) undertakes one or more actions in furtherance of the agreement. A student who conspires with others to engage in conduct prohibited by the Code can be disciplined to the same extent as if the student alone engaged in the prohibited conduct, regardless of whether or not the conspiracy was completed.

### **B. List of Offenses may be Supplemented by other Rules**

In addition to the Code standards set forth above, students enrolled or participating in specific College academic programs and/or extracurricular activities, including athletics, may be subject to additional rules, regulations and/or standards established by the applicable program, club, team, or organization.