GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
Department of Arts, Education And Commerce

COURSE: PH1020 Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality, 3 credits, University Transfer.

INSTRUCTOR: John O. Langenbach

LOCATION:
Office: #C401   **Ph:** 539-2992
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the classical problems of philosophy through study and critical discussion of selected philosophical classics and contemporary works. Emphasis will be placed on questions of the nature and extent of human knowledge and classic problems about the nature of reality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Introduce students to some of the most important ideas underlying Western thought in the areas of epistemology and metaphysics;
2. Improve student's ability to read and write analytically;
3. Improve student's ability to present strong argument; and
4. Encourage student's interest in original and creative thought.

TEXTS:

Kolak & Martin, *The Experience of Philosophy*, Wadsworth, 3rd ed.
Kolak & Martin, *Wisdom without Answers*, Wadsworth, 3rd ed.

ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be responsible for reading each article assigned and to be prepared to discuss salient points in class. You will also be expected to read the relevant sections in *Wisdom without Answers*, though you will not find specific assignments for this text in the Daily Schedule, below. What to read when will be obvious by reading the chapter headings.

In part we will base class discussions on the questions on which you are to write answers. Thus, it behooves you to attend class. The writing assignments will help you to apply what we have read and discussed to your own understanding and life.

You are expected to write the best answer you can to each of the 27 assigned questions. On the dates indicated in the Daily Schedule I will ask you to hand in all of your answers to the set of questions assigned up to that date. You choose your best 3 of the set. I will place stanine grades on these 3 and a 'P' or 'F' on the others. To get any credit, you must pass everything. There are 3 due-dates for written assignments. Thus you will get stanine grades on 9 answers in all. Your final course grade will be the average earned on these 9 papers providing you pass all 27.

Each answer shall be typed and 300 words in length (i.e. 24-26, 60 character lines).

You will be allowed to rewrite your answers to the first two sets of questions if, and only if:

a. Your work is handed in on the proper due dates;
b. You have no more than 2 unexcused absences from the lectures relevant to the set of answers being handed in; and
c. I have the time and energy to handle the increased marking load. I will guarantee rewrite privileges on the first set of answers.

The rewrite privilege is offered because:

a. I wish you to do as well as you possibly can in my class;
b. Rewriting your work is by far the best way for you to learn to write well; and
c. Few of you have written on topics as esoteric as you find in this course and it is not fair to give you a poor grade because you did not know what is expected of you.

GRADING CRITERIA

1. Individual assignments will be marked on a 1-9 basis.
2. Course grades will be determined by averaging grades earned on the 9 graded assignments.
3. Clarity of writing and quality of argumentation and analysis will determine the grades on all written assignments.

A HAPPY POSTSCRIPT

Because of the rewrite privileges, no student who completed this course last semester failed. In PH 1010 the average grade was 6.8, after rewrites. Let's see if we can beat that this semester. If you run into difficulty, see me! Don't give up. Whatever problems you may have can surely be worked out. Good Luck! Happy New Year!

DAILY SCHEDULE

January		Assignments
M	6	Intro. Remarks
W	8	Essay #1, Socrates, P 18 #2
F	10	Essay #2, Milgram, P 26 #5
M	13	Essay #3, Krishnamurti, P 30 #5,
W	15	Essay #5, Einstein, P 40 #3
F	17	Essay #6, Kolak & Goloff
M	20	Essay #7, Dennett, P 65 #2
W	22	Essay #8, Locke, P 76 #2
F	24	Essay #9, Hume, P 81 #1
M	27	Essay #13, Kundera, P 127 #2, 1ˢᵗ Set of Questions Due
W	29	Essay #14, Holbach, P 136 #1
F	31	Essay 15, Hume, P 149 #2

February		Assignments
M	3	Essay #16, James, P 157 #2
W	5	Essay #18, Descartes, P 179 #3
F	7	Essay #19, Locke, P 183 #1
M	10	Essay #20, Berkeley, P 189 #3
W	12	Essay #22, Armstrong
F	14	Essay #23, Anselm, P 219 #3
M	17	Family Day, No Class
W	19	Essay #24, Aquinas, P 22 #2
F	21	Essay #28, James, P 243 #2
M	24	Winter Break
W	26	Winter Break
F	28	Winter Break

March		Assignments
M	3	Essay #29, Kolak, P 256 #2, 2nd Set of Question Due
W	5	Essay #34, Hume, P 301 #2
F	7	Essay #35, Einstein, P 306 #3
M	10	Essay #36, Stairs
W	12	Essay #38, Kolak, P 323 #2
F	14	Essay #49, Parfit, P 427 #1
M	17	Essay #50, Kolak
W	19	Essay #52, Kolak, P 476 #3
F	21	Essay #53, Krishnamurti, P 480 #3
M	24	Essay #56, Tolstoy, P 518 #2
W	26	Essay #57, Camus, P 526 #3
F	28	Good Friday
M	31	Essay #58, Taylor, P 534 #2

April		Assignments
W	2	Essay #59, Martin, P 541 #2
F	4	Catch-up
M	7	Catch-up
W	9	3rd Set of Questions Due