

**Midland College**  
**Syllabus**  
**PHIL 1301**  
**Introduction to Philosophy**  
**Semester and Year**  
**SCH (3-0)**  
**Instructor Name**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Introduction to Philosophy** is a study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

Prerequisite: Students must have satisfied the TSI readiness requirement in reading.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and written.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

**Core Objectives**

This course fulfills the three hour requirement in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture component area in the Midland College Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and educational experiences that are essential for all learning. The URL for the Core Curriculum is

[http://catalog.midland.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=6&poiid=738](http://catalog.midland.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=6&poiid=738)

Philosophy courses promote critical thinking through examination of the human condition and questions about reality, perception and knowledge, meaning, and values.

As part of the core, this course addresses the following four objectives:

**Critical Thinking:** The course involves creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, evaluation, and synthesis of information. Mastery of these skills is accomplished through the following: class discussions; written assignments including analytical papers, research papers; and exams about philosophical works and their historical context.

**Communication:** The course includes effective written, oral, and visual communication. Students are required to participate in class discussions; informal class presentations; creation of visual presentations; writing analytical papers, and research papers.

**Social Responsibility:** This course teaches intercultural competency and helps the students develop the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Students will accomplish these objectives by studying significant philosophers and their work; by writing about major issues and problems of philosophy, significant historical developments in philosophy, and the philosophical movements of different periods or regions; and by analyzing and synthesizing philosophical writings through class discussion, presentations, written assignments, and exams.

**Personal Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making. They will accomplish this by submitting original work and using appropriate documentation and attribution when using another's words or ideas.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS** (Text may vary)

Soccio, Douglas J. Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction To Philosophy, 8<sup>th</sup> ed..ISBN: 978-1-111-837792. Boston: Wadsworth, 2012.

[Adobe Reader](#) (Links to an external site)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work offered for credit. A student commits plagiarism if he/she:

**1. fails to acknowledge the sources of any information** in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge. A student can acknowledge a source through in-text citations, attribution lines, footnotes, or other forms of documentation approved by the instructor. (Common knowledge is the basic information within a field or discipline, as well as most historical dates and facts, and many ordinary observations.)

**2. fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation.** Without the quotation marks or indentation, passages copied directly from a source might be considered plagiarized even if it is followed by an in-text citation or a footnote. The citation or footnote acknowledges that there is a source, but it does not indicate that the writer has borrowed someone else's exact words. If a writer uses the language of a source, word-for word, he/she must use quotation marks or block indentation.

**3. merely paraphrases the original words of the source.** Some students think they can avoid a charge of plagiarism by changing a few words in each sentence they copy or by rearranging the shape of phrases or the order of sentences in a paragraph. This is not true. When taking notes students must be careful to put ideas in their own words or to use direct quotations when relying on phrases directly borrowed from a source.

**4. borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it.** A student can be guilty of plagiarism if he/she systematically borrows the ideas and organization of a source even if the language of the piece is on a major news event by using exactly the same ideas in the same order as they appear in an article in any popular news magazine.

**5. takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the student's own.**

**6. uses one paper for two different courses,** or re-uses a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of the instructor or instructors.

**Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on that assignment. A second plagiarized paper may result in an F for the course.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Policy may vary on such policies as attendance, submission of papers and deadlines, format or papers, use of Canvas, participation, email correspondence, portfolios, and course schedule.**

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENTS**

Grading Scale

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% and Below

## **DROP / WITHDRAWAL**

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor.

**Withdrawal from course:** The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal.**

## **2023-2024 WITHDRAWAL DATES**

<b>Fall</b>	November 27
<b>Fall First 8-Week Session</b>	September 28
<b>Fall Second 8-Week Session</b>	November 27
<b>December Mini-Semester</b>	December 26
<b>Spring</b>	April 11
<b>Spring First 8-Week Session</b>	February 22
<b>Spring Second 8-Week Session</b>	April 25
<b>May Mini-Semester</b>	May 23
<b>Summer I</b>	July 3
<b>Summer II</b>	August 8

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

For Research information, tutorials, library information, web links and more, access the **Distance Learning Webpage for the [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#)**.

### Academic Database Access

1. Go to [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#).
2. Click on big green box labeled "A-Z Databases."
3. Click on link for desired database
4. **You will be taken to the Midland College Microsoft 365 site, and from there you will be taken directly to EBSCO.**
5. **Sign in to Microsoft 365.**

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT for Canvas problems

1. Navigate to the page in Canvas where the problem exists
2. Click the Help icon in the dark green toolbar on the left
3. Select "Report a Problem", complete the short form and Submit
4. Check your MC student email account for responses to your ticket.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit <https://www.midland.edu/services-resources/accommodation-services.php> and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining

any reasonable accommodations. For more information or questions, please contact Shep Grinnan, Counselor at [sgrinnan@midland.edu](mailto:sgrinnan@midland.edu) or 432-685-4505.

**Phone, Midland College Special Needs Counselor: 432-685-5598**

**[Midland College Disability Services](#)**

**[Microsoft Accessibility](#)**

**[Canvas Accessibility](#)**

**[Turnitin Accessibility](#)**

**[Adobe Reader Accessibility](#)**

**[Google Reader Accessibility](#)**

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

**[Academics and Student Services](#)**

**Phone, Midland College Testing Center: 432-685-4735**

**Phone, LanguageHub, Midland College On-Campus Writing Center: 432-685-4811,  
182 TC**

**Language Hub Online (available to all students in Canvas)**

**STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUE PROCESS**

**[Midland College Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)**

## **PRIVACY POLICIES**

The below privacy policies apply to this course, as they are applicable to your conduct on this online platform.

**[Midland College Website Privacy Policy](#)**

**[Canvas Privacy Policy](#)**

**[YouTube Privacy Policy](#)**

**[Canvas Student Guide](#)**

**[Turnitin Privacy Policy](#)**

## **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name:

Email:

Office Location:

Office Phone:  
Office Hours:  
Department Chair: Dr. Rabon Bewley  
Division Dean, Fine Arts  
and Communications: Dr. William Feeler  
Secretary: Ms. Lula Lee  
Division Office: 135 AFA  
Phone: 432-685-4624  
Division Office hours: 8-5, Monday-Friday

## **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

**Nicole Cooper, Title IX Coordinator**

129 SSC  
432-685-4781  
[TitleIX@midland.edu](mailto:TitleIX@midland.edu)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

**UPDATED AUGUST 2023**