



**PHIL 1301.101CL**

**Introduction to Philosophy**

**Spring 2024**

**9:30–10:50am**

**MW LRC257**

**Instructor:** Stacey M. Burluson; [sburluson@com.edu](mailto:sburluson@com.edu); 409-933-8317 or 409-933-8214.

**Student hours and location (LRC Suite B):**

MW: 7:30–9:30am

W: 3:00–4:00pm (online office hour)

T, TH: 7:30 – 9:30 am

F: By appointment only

**Required Textbook:** Chaffee, John. *The Philosopher's Way*. 5th edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2016.

Any additional readings will be distributed in Brightspace.

**Course Description** 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.

**Course requirements (including description of any special projects or assignments):** Two exams, Philosophy web-based project, check-up (quizzes), and discussion (on Brightspace and in class), oral presentation, and daily assignments (These assignments will be averaged together under Professionalism).

**Web-Based Project which will include various components including:**

- A research paper component.
- The paper will be the equivalent of 4-6 pages taking on a philosophy topic.
- Failure to follow instructions on the paper handout will result in a (0), on the paper component of the project. (CS1),(CS2),(CS3)•

\*See handout for complete instructions

### **PowerPoint (part of your web-based project) –**

- You must create a PowerPoint presentation based on the main points of your paper.
- You will post your PowerPoint Presentation to your webpage.
- In addition, you will present your PowerPoint presentation as an oral presentation toward the end of the semester.

### **Oral Presentation in class –**

- You must present the main points of your paper at the end of the semester.
- Your presentation must include a PowerPoint with bulleted points highlighting your main ideas.
- Your presentation must be between 6-8minutes.

**\*See handout for complete instructions**

### WRITING AN ANALYTICAL PAPER – some tips and guidelines

A good philosophy paper takes an analytical approach. This means that it must: identify and clearly state a philosophical claim, state the reasons backing up that claim, and make a critical evaluation of this claim. All three aspects are essential for a good paper. The first thing you should do is identify the claim; it may be stated or implied. Once the philosophical claim is identified and stated, and the author's reasons for it made clear, the claim must be critically evaluated. Some questions or things to consider:

- Is the claim vague or ambiguous? If so, can it be restated in a clear and rigorous manner?
- Is the claim logical?
- Does it follow from the stated premises?
- Are those stated premises coherent and plausible?
- Does the claim rest on any unjustifiable assumptions?
- Is the claim consistent with other things the author claims?
- Does the author commit any fallacies in presenting his/her case? For instance, does he or she beg the question (assume or take as a premise something that should be proven first)?
- If he or she makes factual claims, are they actually true?

Each paper must have a Works Cited. Complete bibliographical details of each work must be given. The title, author, publisher (or journal title), date, place of publication (or Internet address), and page number(s) should be given. Use as many sources as you want from the Internet but see cautionary note below. Whenever you quote a source, paraphrase it, refer to it, or use it to support or document a claim, you must cite that source. You must use MLA 8<sup>th</sup> edition for your citations and works cited page.

Failure to include in-text citation and a works cited page on the research paper, the exams, and other major assignments will result in a 0 for the assignment as this is considered plagiarism. Multiple instances may result in a failing grade (F) for the course.

### ***Internet Sources***

The internet is a great research tool; feel free to use it in doing research for your paper. However, Internet sources are not generally peer-reviewed or otherwise monitored for reliability, accuracy, or integrity. Therefore, use considerable caution when citing material from the Internet. Make sure that the source is worthwhile. Use of Internet encyclopedias is discouraged. In addition, sources such as *Wikipedia*, while possibly useful to give you an overview of a subject, are not appropriate scholarly sources for an academic paper.

The instructor reserves the right to determine whether a quoted source is appropriate or not. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about the appropriateness of Internet materials. You must turn in photocopies of all source material used for your paper or project.

### **Exams –**

- There will be two exams.
- Exams may be administered in class, as take-home exams, or in Brightspace.
- The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

### **Professionalism:**

Our class will reproduce in many ways a “real-world” work environment and students will be expected to participate professionally in the class. You should arrive on time, meet deadlines, and contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Professionalism also includes collaboration, willing participation in all class activities, and sincere effort to improve your own writing as well as work with others to engage in critical thought. In the real world, employees are assigned various tasks outside their core job duties as needed. To reflect this sort of real-world circumstance, all quiz grades, homework, and daily work will be included in this category. Professional behavior is a cooperative endeavor that affects the entire class, but it will be tied to an individual grade. Grades that are listed under professionalism will be listed as such in the assignment. (See details of assignments that will be considered part of your professionalism grade listed below)

### **Discussion Topics On Brightspace**

A large part of the learning process is done in collaboration with others- discussing the readings, brainstorming ideas about them, and listening to others. In this class, these activities are imperative to successful completion of the course. Discussion postings should be between 150-200 words in length.

Our online discussions will be a part of the important part of the classroom experience. Once each week you will join a discussion on Brightspace’s Discussion board. Most weeks you will be asked to respond to a question (or questions) or topic(s) that I post. You may always post a topic/question on the reading if you want to. The idea is to start

or join a discussion on the week's topics. They will be worth 10 points each based on the rubric below:

<b>Objective/ Criteria</b>	<b>Failing</b>	<b>Minimal Response</b>	<b>Needs improvement</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
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<b>Content</b>	<b>No posting to original question(s). 0 points.</b>	<b>Discussed at Surface level; Needs more depth; Less than 150 words. 1 point</b>	<b>Somewhat thoughtful; subject given appropriate depth; posted on time; less than 150 words. 2 points</b>	<b>Thoughtful; subject given appropriate depth; no examples; posted on time; 150-200 words. 3 points</b>	<b>Thoughtful and insightful; subject given appropriate depth; posted on time; 150-200 words. 4 points</b>	<b>Criteria for “Meets Expectations” plus really exceptional posting with examples. 5 points</b>
<b>Grammar/ Mechanics</b>	<b>0 points.</b>	<b>0 points</b>	<b>Many errors in grammar and mechanics; Difficult to understand meaning. 0 points.</b>	<b>Several errors in grammar and mechanics; not always direct and clear communication. 1 point</b>	<b>1-2 major errors in grammar or mechanics; direct and fairly clear communication. 2 points</b>	<b>No major Errors in grammar or mechanics; clear communication. 3 points</b>
<b>Replies</b>	<b>0 points.</b>	<b>No replies. 0 points</b>	<b>1 reply. 1 point</b>	<b>2 replies; late. 1 point</b>	<b>2 replies on time; Minimal 1 point.</b>	<b>2 replies on time; more than “good”; gives some explanation or commentary.</b>

### ***Replies to Postings***

- Your responses must be more than “I agree with you.” If you want full credit for your response, your reply must have some substance. If you agree with a posting, **why** do you agree? If you disagree, **why**?

- When you respond to others, observe the rules of Netiquette—we don't have the advantage of body language and tone of voice to moderate our words. Since our replies can happen at the click of a button and cannot be retracted, be polite even as you disagree with someone.
- Be aware of your audience and purpose (remember English 1301?)(SR)

**Discussion postings and replies are due by the days listed on the syllabus, by 11:59 pm**

### **Checkups or Weekly Quizzes**

- You will have weekly quizzes throughout the semester.
- Quizzes will consist of ten true/false questions about background information or the primary text selections in the textbook.
- Quizzes will not be timed. (CT)

**Quizzes are due by the days listed in the syllabus, by 11:59 pm.**

### **Weekly Assignments**

- You will have an several additional weekly assignments
- These may be on the end of the chapter readings or to give me your research paper topics, working bibliography, etc.
- The specific directions will be listed in the syllabus as well as the learning modules.
- **These assignments are due by Sunday, by 11:59 pm but there may be additional weekly assignments throughout the week.**

*Note: There may be other assignments that I have not listed, but generally, these are the kinds of work we will do this term.*

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance):**

### **Detailed Grading Formula:**

A cumulative average for grading is used in this course. The breakdown of assignment and corresponding average is listed below. The maximum value a student can earn in the different assignments. Please be aware that I do not round up. For example, if you have an 89.3 in the course, you will earn a B

<b>Exams x 2</b>	<b>20% x 2 =</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Final Project (Webpage)</b> (This will be a combined score of all Components required for the project. See The handout for various components)		<b>20%</b>
<b>Professionalism</b> (Quizzes, discussion postings in class and brightspace and other daily assignments)		<b>30%</b>
<b>Oral Presentation</b>		<b>10%</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100%</b>

*\*This total may vary depending on the actual assignments we have. Your grade will be based on the average below.*

**Grade Scale**

A = 100 - 90

B = 89 - 80

C = 79 - 70

D = 69 - 60

F = 59 and below

*\*This grading scale may change up or down because it depends on the actual number of points available in the course. I do not expect the scale to change significantly.*

**You must complete all major assignments including the philosophy project, and all exams in order to pass this class.**

**Tardiness Policy:**

Students are expected to complete work on time.

**Make-Up Policy:**

**No late work is accepted.** Deadlines are posted on the course syllabus. The State of Texas only accepts Military Service or Religious Holidays as excuses for missing a class, however since deadlines are presented in plenty of time, this does not excuse late work. Late work will receive a zero.



### **Extra Credit:**

There will be no extra credit in the course. You may use your book and notes on quizzes and exams, therefore start earning the grade you want now.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Make every effort to attend class. Students who miss four classes will be considered to have excessive absences and will receive an FN for the course.

There is a definite correlation between poor attendance and poor performance in class. If you have to miss signing in for a significant amount of time, contact me via telephone or email through Brightspace. If you do not submit an assignment when it is due, you will receive a zero on the assignment, which cannot be made-up. Please review the course syllabus for the due dates which are in bold. Do not schedule appointments, vacations, and other personal business on these dates. Per the State of Texas, the only acceptable absences are religious holidays and military service. Please see your college handbook for additional information regarding class attendance. Please be on time with assignments. Lateness or failure to sign in may result in your inability to complete course assignments by their respective deadlines, which may result in being dropped from the course for lack of progress. Group assignments in class or other activities we complete in class cannot be made up and could impact your final grade.

### **Communicating with your instructor:**

ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your class in Brightspace or Outlook. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

**General Education Core Objectives:** Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
2. **Communication Skills:** Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

3. **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **Personal Responsibility:** Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to ethical decision-making.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quizzes
Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Exams
Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.	Communication Skills (CS1) Communication Skills (CS2) Communication Skills (CS3)	Philosophy Project. Oral presentation

Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Discussions
Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Discussions

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or any other assignment– is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Any additional occurrence after the first instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course.

### **Plagiarism**

Writing your own exams and doing your own work is mandatory; submitting anyone else’s writing or other work as your own constitutes fraud and is illegal. If you turn in a piece of writing which has been plagiarized from another writer (and this includes fellow students), you will receive a 0 (zero) for that assignment.

Possible referral to the Judicial Coordinator and other consequences are possible. College of the Mainland’s definition of Academic Dishonesty and associated policies are available in the 2023-2024 Catalog or 2023-2024 Student Handbook in print form and online.

### **HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one’s own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded

material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his or her work to be used by others is also guilty.)

Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of “0” on his or her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current StudentHandbook<<http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>>.

Note: All work submitted in College of the Mainland ENGL, HUMN or PHIL classes must conform to the documentation system established by the Modern Language Association (MLA). MLA documentation guidelines are distributed by your instructor, found in your textbook or on reserve in the library<<http://library.com.edu/>>. Documentation in SPCH classes is up to the individual instructor. It may be either MLA or APA style; check with your instructor and follow the appropriate system guidelines.

To document using the MLA system, you must provide an in-text parenthetical citation and a corresponding entry on a Works Cited page. “Source” may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.

3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source.

Rev 8/23

Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

### **AI Tools**

AI tools may be allowed under specific circumstances in this class. Whether or not these tools will be allowed for coursework will be indicated in the assignment. Further, the scope of such use will be carefully delineated. The choice to employ such tools for your assignments is one your professors will make. Students are strongly advised talk with the professor prior to using any AI tool for an assignment to determine what is allowed. Never assume that it is acceptable to generate your work using an AI tool, and always document any tools you are given permission to use. When an assignment calls for original research, analysis, and discussion, this means that students must perform the work on their own, without the use of research tools, paraphrasing tools, or AI text generators. If an assignment clearly states that AI tools are not allowed, or a tool is used inappropriately, such use may result in a failing grade on the assignment and a potential referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.

**Concerns/Questions Statement:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Humanities Department Chair Brian Anderson at (409) 933-8186 or [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).

### **Tentative and Highly Flexible Schedule**

**Tentative and flexible schedule. This schedule is subject to change as I see fit.**

#### **Week One: January 16 – January 21**

To familiarize yourself with the “classroom” environment. To get to know your cyber classmates. To read and understand philosophical terms associated with philosophy.

**Discussion posting #1 Introduction; Quiz #1**

**Week Two: January 22 – January 28**

Why study philosophy? Critical thinking, the structure of arguments, the branches of philosophy Read Chapter 1 *What is Philosophy? Thinking philosophically about life*

**Discussion posting #2; Assignment #1; Quiz #2**

**Week Three: January 29 – February 4**

Where did philosophy begin? The Socratic Method, Socrates' Central Concern: The Soul, The trial and death of Socrates

Read Chapter 2 *What is the Philosopher's Way? Socrates and the Examined Life*

**Sunday. Discussion posting #3, Quiz #3 due**

**Week Four: February 5 – February 11**

The Soul is Immortal, Socrates and Plato, Descartes' Modern Perspective on the Self, The Self is Consciousness: Locke, There is no Self: Hume, We Construct the Self: Kant, The Self is Subjective: Husserl and Merleau-Ponty, Materialism, Buddhism  
Read Chapter 3 *Who are you? Consciousness, Identity, and the Self*

**Discussion posting #4, Quiz #4 due**

**Week Five: February 12 – February 18**

Determinism, Indeterminism and libertarianism, Compatibilism, Schlick, Dennett, James, Sartre Read Chapter 4 *Are you Free? Freedom and Determinism*

**Discussion posting, assignment #2, Quiz #5 due**

**Week Six: February 19 – February 25**

What is the nature of reality? Reality is the eternal of the forms: Plato, Rationalism, Empiricism, The Allegory of the Cave, The natural world: Aristotle, Descartes,

Read Chapter 5 *How Can we Know the Nature of Reality? Philosophical Foundations*

**Discussion posting, Exam I Chapters 1-5 due by Sunday, February 25, by 11:59 pm**

**Week Seven: February 26 – March 3**

Questioning reality, Bertrand Russell, Knowledge from Experience; John Locke, Reality and perception; Berkeley, Skepticism; Hume, Kant, Two Realities: Phenomenal and Noumenal Read Chapter 6 *What is real? What is true?*

**Discussion, assignment #3, Quiz #6 due**

**Week Eight: March 4 – March 10**

Religion versus philosophy, God is a human projection; Feuerbach, Religion is a Vital Quest; Nishitani, A brief survey of world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Indigenous Sacred Ways, The Ontological Argument, The Cosmological Argument, The Argument from Gradations of Perfection, The Argument from Design, The Argument from Morality, The problem of evil

Read Chapter 7 *Is there a spiritual Reality? Exploring the Philosophy of Religion*

**Discussion, Quiz #7, assignment #4 due**

## **Spring Break: March 11 – March 15 (College Closed)**

### **Week Nine: March 18 – March 24**

Ethics and values, Ethical relativism, cultural relativism, ethical absolutism, egoism, religion and universal values, natural law theory,  
Read Chapter 8 *Are there moral truths? Ethics: the study of values that govern our moral character and our relationships with others*

**Discussion posting, Quiz #8 due**

### **Week Ten: March 25 – March 31**

Moral philosophy, Virtue Ethics; Aristotle, Maxims, Utilitarianism; Betham and Mill Read Chapter 9 *What are right actions? Constructing an Ethical Theory*

**Discussion posting, Quiz #9, assignment #5 due**

### **Week Eleven: April 1 – April 7**

Continue Chapter 9 Existential Ethics; Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, care ethics

**Discussion posting, Quiz #10, assignment #6 due**

### **Week Twelve: April 8 – April 14**

Elements of a just society, classical theories of society: Confucius, Plato, and Aristotle Read Chapter 10 *What is social justice: Creating a just state*  
Justice depends on a social contract: Hobbes, Locke, and Rawls, Justice is based on need and ability: Marx and Engels, Justice is what promotes welfare: Mill, Justice and gender equality

**Discussion posting, Quiz #11 due.**

### **Week Thirteen: April 15 – April 21**

Chapter 10 continued...Justice depends on a social contract: Hobbes, Locke, and Rawls, Justice is based on need and ability: Marx and Engels, Justice is what promotes welfare: Mill, Justice and gender equality

**Discussion posting, Quiz #12 due**

**Your project is due by Sunday, April 21, by 11:59 pm.**

### **Week Fourteen: April 22 – April 28**

Aesthetics – read the handouts posted in Brightspace.

**Discussion, Quiz**

**Oral presentations begin.**

### **Week Fifteen: April 29 – May 5**

**(Be aware of new deadlines due to the end of the semester)**

**Assignment #7 due.**

The zombie in philosophy; lack of free will, lack of consciousness – read the handouts posted in Brightspace.

**Oral presentations in class.**

**Week Sixteen: May 6 – May 8**

**Exam II Chapters 6-10 and handouts**

**(by Wednesday, May 8, by noon (12:00 pm)**

**Three responses due for your peers' projects by Wednesday, May 8, by noon (12:00 pm).**

**Finish oral presentations in class.**

### **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.



**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Professor Policies and Guidelines****Grading:**

Grades will be submitted weekly. Be aware that bigger assignments, such the research project will take longer to grade. I will reply in-depth to at least two discussion postings throughout the semester, in addition to using the provided rubric. Remember to be patient in concern to grades. You have at least 11 days to submit work, so as a courtesy give me at least that to return work.

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. Keep up with the assignments.
2. Take full responsibility for your work and the successful completion of it.
3. Allow enough time each week to complete the assignments. Set aside the hours you would spend in class plus 1 ½ to 3 hours for “homework” for this class (6-9 hours per week total).
4. Be aware of others’ feelings. It is easy to react to a comment and send a reply quickly without thinking through the language and tone. In an online environment, responses are instantaneous, and we can’t take them back once they are sent.
5. Participate fully in the discussions and dialogue in the class. The more you put into the class, the more you will get out of it.
6. Check the announcements Brightspace several times a week. Always try to check it by Sunday night so that you’ll be aware of any changes to assignments early in the week. I use email to communicate with you.
7. Stay in touch with me and your cyber classmates. Use email to ask questions if you are uncertain about an assignment. No question is too basic. Ask a couple of classmates to be your “buddies.”
8. Be academically honest. Much of our learning during this course will be

collaborative. You'll discuss ideas together in the Discussions and email one another with questions/ideas/inspirations/gripes. This collaboration is crucial. However, you must, finally, do your own work. Students who submit plagiarized works are subject to the same penalties as those that apply to students in an on- campus course.

### **Instructor responsibilities:**

2. I will do my best to help students understand philosophy.
3. I will return work to students in a reasonable amount of time.
4. I will consider each student's work in an unbiased fashion.
5. I will check my email (Brightspace account) at least 5 days a week.
6. I will return email or voicemail messages ASAP. My goal is 24 hours or less.
7. I will post assignments or changes in the schedule in a timely manner.
8. I will provide additional explanations for all assignments whenever you request them.

### **Format**

Any work that is submitted early through Brightspace without a proper extension: doc, docx, rtf will not be graded. Be sure to click on file, save as and choose an appropriate extension. Any work that cannot be opened will receive a 0 for the assignment. It is your responsibility to ensure your work is submitted properly and can be opened. In addition, be sure to submit assignments through the appropriate place, such as discussions through discussion board, etc.

### **Statement of Purpose**

The power to describe and to influence others through writing will take the form of reading and analyzing the primary readings in the textbook, class discussions, and research. The knowledge about effective writing gained will be useful to students not only in the rest of their academic careers but also in their professional careers when they graduate. In addition, critical thinking is instrumental to a successful career outside of academia and this will be gained in this class through dealing with ethical issues and determining that there are instances of right and wrong behavior. Thus, this is a student learner class where the instructor guides the students through the material as well as helps the learners engage with the material.

## **Tutoring Center**

The Tutoring Center provides free tutoring services to students, staff and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading and oral presentations for academic and non-academic assignments/projects. Located in the Industrial Careers Building (IBO), Building 5, the center provides face-to-face and online tutoring sessions in a welcoming environment.

Appointments can be made in person, or on the center scheduler at [com.mywconline.com](http://com.mywconline.com), or by clicking the Tutoring center icon on the COM website.

## **Technical Outage Issues**

If you have a Brightspace issue, click on the sidebar on the left-hand side of the course. Fill out a b l a c k b o a r d ticket. Educational Technology will determine if it is a Brightspace error. If it is a Brightspace error or server error and deemed as such, you will be allowed to make up a quiz. If not, you will not be allowed to make it up. Please do not email me to reset your quiz.

**The GCIC Academic Symposium:** COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic and creative projects. I am part of the committee responsible for this event and am therefore especially motivated to help you gain knowledge concerning it. Speak with me if you'd like to learn more and/or visit: <http://www.com.edu/symposium>. Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills, widens your professional networks, and should be noted on your resume. **This year, the symposium is Friday, March 22, 2024. The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at 11:59pm.**





