

University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus
Course syllabus

Course Title	Introduction to Philosophy
Course Prefix, Number, and Section	PHIL-1115-501
Professor	Dr. Daniel Murphy
Term	Fall 2021
Meeting Times	Online
Email Address	dmurphy5@unm.edu
Course Access	http://learn.unm.edu

General Course Information

Welcome to PHIL-1115!	<p>I'm Dr. Daniel Murphy, I love teaching philosophy, researching, writing, and being able to enjoy academic life, in which I've been working for well over ten years. In this course, our focus is on introducing the history of Western philosophy. As we advance in the course, we will be able to explore and learn about the work of many important figures in the history of Western philosophy, as well as main areas in philosophy, and I hope we will also be able to see how it can help us to think about many problems and issues that we have today as well.</p> <p>On a more personal note, I also like reading the great works in world literature (as time permits), and inevitably, the ideas in those great novels connect with many important philosophical ideas and issues. But things indeed get busy, so there is often not enough time to squeeze it all in!</p>
Course catalog description	<p><i>PHIL-1115: Introduction to Philosophy.</i> In this course, students will be introduced to some of the key questions of philosophy through the study of classical and contemporary thinkers. Some of the questions students might consider are: Do we have free will? What is knowledge? What is the mind? What are our moral obligations to others? Students will engage with and learn to critically assess various philosophical approaches to such questions. Meets New Mexico General Education Curriculum Area 5: Humanities.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>By the end of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify some of the perennial problems and issues of philosophy as found in classical Greek sources (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), and compare and contrast certain positions in this tradition. 2. Explain and critically discuss philosophical problems, issues, and arguments as found in later philosophy, particularly in modern philosophical sources and texts, and compare and contrast certain key philosophical positions.
Textbook and readings	<p><i>The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy</i>, by Norman Melchert and David R. Morrow. 8th edition, Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-067061-0</p> <p>This text almost all of the required readings for the course. All readings are from <i>The Great Conversation</i>, unless otherwise indicated (there will be one required reading toward the end of the course that is freely downloadable from UNM Learn).</p>

Academic Calendar

Week/Date(s)	Brief description of topics and readings – see UNM Learn for assignments, due dates, .pdf readings, and other details for each weekly cycle
Week 1: 8/23 – 11:30 pm on 8/29	Introduction to course, ancient Athens, the Sophists, and Socrates
Week 2: 8/30 – 11:30 pm on 9/5	Socrates and Plato's <i>Apology</i> ; Plato's philosophy
Week 3: 9/6 - 11:30 pm on 9/12	Plato's philosophy (cont.)
Week 4: 9/13 – 11:30 pm on 9/19	Elements of Aristotle's philosophy
Week 5: 9/20 – 11:30 pm on 9/26	Transition from medieval era to modernity
Week 6: 9/27 – 11:30 pm on 10/3	Descartes and rationalism
Week 7: 10/4 - 11:30 pm on 10/10	Descartes and rationalism (cont.)
Week 8: 10/11 – 11:30 pm on 10/17	The Enlightenment, empiricism, and Hume
Week 9: 10/18 – 11:30 pm on 10/24	Empiricism and Hume
Week 10: 10/25 – 11:30 pm on 10/31	Empiricism and Hume (cont.)
Week 11: 11/1 – 11:30 pm on 11/7	Modern philosophy and the self
Week 12: 11/8 – 11:30 pm on 11/14	Modern philosophy and the self; elements of contemporary philosophy of mind
Week 13: 11/15 – 11:30 pm on 11/21	Elements of contemporary philosophy of mind (cont.)
Week 14: 11/22 – 11:30 pm on 11/28	<i>As this weekly cycle overlaps with Thanksgiving break, there are no new readings or assignments for this weekly cycle.</i>
Week 15: 11/29 – 11:30 pm on 12/5	Elements of contemporary philosophy of mind (cont.)
Week 16: 12/6 – 11:30 pm on 12/12	Last week of course (final exam-essay due on 12/12)

Course Components: Required Assignments

6 Tests (40%)	The maximum credit (total point value) that can be earned for each test is 100 points. Each test is worth approximately 6.66% of the overall grade for the course.
----------------------	--

	Some tests are shorter, and some are longer. The grading system for these tests will be as follows: 90 - 100 points: "A" range 80 - 90 points: "B" range 70 - 80 points: "C" range 60 - 70 points: "D" range Fewer than 60 points: "F"
1 Final Exam-Essay (15%)	The maximum credit (total point value) that can be earned for the final exam, which will be an essay assignment, is 100 points. The essay is worth 15% of the overall grade for the course. For additional rubric and grading information, see below.
9 Discussion Forum Assignments (45%)	The maximum credit that can be earned for each forum assignment is 100 points. Each forum assignment is worth 5% of the overall grade for the course. For additional rubric and grading information, see below.

Grading Rubrics for Final Exam-Essay and Discussion Forum Assignments

Grading rubric for final exam-essay assignment	<p><i>The final exam-essay will be evaluated using the criteria listed below. Study these criteria carefully. Simply putting in time and doing all of the work will not guarantee a high grade. Quality is what counts!</i></p> <p>Criteria for "A" range grades: Students show that they understand the material very well and are able to construct an essay which expresses the relevant ideas, concepts, and arguments in their own words, which incorporates their own insights, and which is presented in a clear, well-organized form. The essay has a well-supported thesis, incorporates relevant distinctions, definitions, and other issues raised by the materials covered. The essay has solid supporting evidence and arguments. The essay is well-written and has few or no grammatical mistakes and/or mechanical errors. The assignment directions have been followed, and the essay has been submitted on time.</p> <p>Criteria for "B" range grades: Students show that they understand the material well but their own contribution is more limited. The arguments and/or evidence provided are not as convincing, and the materials covered are less well incorporated. There may be a few issues regarding the clarity of writing, grammar, syntax, and/or other mechanical errors, but generally, the essay is still easy to follow. All assignment directions have been followed, and the essay normally has been submitted on time.</p> <p>Criteria for "C" range grades: The essay reflects that students understand some issues, but miss some important points. The essay is not as well-written and lacks some clarity, but it can still be followed. The arguments and/or supporting evidence are unconvincing, perhaps because key issues are missed or because the writing (grammar, syntax, etc.) is poor enough to significantly affect the content of the essay. Some assignment directions were not followed. The essay may have been submitted late.</p> <p>Criteria for "D" range grades: The essay does not show sufficient understanding of the key issues. The content that the essay was meant to treat is substantially missing. The supporting evidence and/or supporting arguments for the thesis are missing, sparse, or of poor quality. The writing itself is generally of poor quality, with numerous clear flaws</p>
---	--

	<p>and errors in grammar, syntax, and/or other mechanical errors, so that the essay runs the risk of being unintelligible. Some or most of the assignment directions were not followed. The essay may have been submitted late.</p> <p>Criteria for an "F" grade: The essay shows little understanding of the key issues. The content that the essay was meant to cover is largely or entirely missing. Supporting evidence and supporting arguments are very sparse, of very poor quality, or not present at all. Writing is very disorganized, with many significant flaws and errors in grammar and syntax, to the point that the essay cannot be understood at all. Most or all of the essay assignment directions were not followed. The essay may have been submitted late.</p> <p>'Perfect' A essay will be recorded as 100/100 points – well-done! A essay (but a bit less than 'perfect') will be recorded as 95/100 points A- essay will be recorded as a 91.5/100 points B+ essay will be recorded as 88/100 points B essay will be recorded as 85/100 points B- essay will be recorded as 81.5/100 points C+ essay will be recorded as 78/100 points C essay will be recorded as 75/100 points C- essay will be recorded as 71.5/100 points D+ essay will be recorded as 68/100 points D essay will be recorded as 65/100 points F essay will be recorded as 50/100 points or 0/100 points (incomplete or violating academic integrity)</p>
<p>Grading rubric for discussion forum assignments</p>	<p><i>Forum posts made on UNM Learn by the assignment deadline will be graded using the criteria listed below.</i></p> <p><u>A range:</u> Posts have substantial content. They are well organized and very well written, with conciseness, style and insight. Posts normally have at most one grammatical, spelling, or punctuation mistake. Posts stand out as short written pieces.</p> <p><u>B range:</u> Posts have substantial content which reflect and respond to the forum topic, are relatively well organized, and are acceptably written. Posts likely contain one or more grammatical, spelling or punctuation mistakes. Posts are satisfactory for the demands of the assignment, but do not stand out.</p> <p><u>C range:</u> Posts have a little more substantial content, but drift off topic and/or suffer from weak organization, and also likely have several grammatical, spelling or punctuation mistakes. Post are marginally acceptable as short written pieces. Posts may be missing.</p> <p><u>D range:</u> Posts have a bit of substantial content. However, they make only marginal reference to course content, readings, or forum topic, and contains several grammatical, spelling, or punctuation mistakes. They likely suffer from a combination of these kinds of deficiencies, and posts are also poorly organized. Posts are mostly unacceptable as short written pieces. Posts may be missing.</p> <p><u>F:</u> Posts have very little substantial content, do not seriously reflect the course content, readings, or forum topic, contain numerous significant grammatical, spelling or punctuation mistakes, and likely suffer from a combination of these kinds of deficiencies. Posts are very badly organized. Posts may be missing. Overall, posts are unacceptable as short written pieces.</p>

	<p>'Perfect' A forum will be recorded as 100/100 points- well done! A forum (but a bit less than 'perfect') will be recorded as 95/100 points A- forum will be recorded as a 91.5/100 points B+ forum will be recorded as 88/100 points B forum will be recorded as 85/100 points B- forum will be recorded as 81.5/100 points C+ forum will be recorded as 78/100 points C forum will be recorded as 75/100 points C- forum will be recorded as 71.5/100 points D+ forum will be recorded as 68/100 points D forum will be recorded as 65/100 points F forum will be recorded as 50/100 points or 0/100 points (incomplete or violating academic integrity)</p>
--	---

Course Policies (1): Submitting Assignments Online; Missed and Late Assignments

<p>Submitting online assignments: general remarks</p>	<p>Above is the list of the assignments that will receive grades, and as well the basic week-by-week plan of the course. On UNM Learn, you will also find the graded assignments for each week, with specific due dates, and the specific reading assignments for each week. In order to be able to receive full credit for the graded assignments, you will have to complete the graded assignments by their specified deadlines. Here are a few additional details regarding each of the different kinds of assignments:</p> <p>For tests: You will submit your replies to test questions on UNM Learn directly, which normally will automatically grade the test and present you with your score out of 100. You can find each test by going to the left of the screen and clicking on the content area named 'Tests and Final Exam (essay).' All of the tests for the course will appear there, and you can click on the test to begin working on it.</p> <p>For discussion forum assignments: Please make sure that you follow the instructions for each assignment, and that you post in the appropriate forum on UNM Learn (do not attach a separate document which contains your forum assignment, and do not email your forum assignment to me). You can find each forum assignment by going to the left of the screen and clicking on the content area named 'Discussions.' There are posting topics and instructions for each discussion forum, along with a due date for each post that you are required to make in a forum assignment.</p> <p>For the final exam-essay: You are to write or cut/paste your essay directly into the appropriate place on UNM Learn for the essay assignment (you should not attach a separate document which contains the essay, and you should not email your essay to me). You can find these assignments by going to the left of the screen and clicking on the content area named 'Tests and Final Exam (essay).' The instructions for the assignment – the topic choices and submission instructions - will appear there.</p> <p><i>For all assignments, please make sure you click on the appropriate buttons on UNM Learn when you are ready to submit the assignment, in order to complete the submission of the assignment properly! Not</i></p>
--	--

	<i>doing this properly may result in the assignment getting to me late or in not getting to me at all, and in that case you are likely to lose credit.</i>
Policy for final exam-essay not turned in	As a general rule, if the final exam-essay is not turned in then it will receive a grade of 0 points, and a student could receive an F for the course if the final exam-essay is not turned in. All final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, but do note that this policy is normally maintained.
Policy for forum assignments not turned in	As a general rule, any forum assignment not turned in will receive 0 points, and a student could receive an F for the course if one or all of the forum assignments are not turned in. All final decisions regarding forum assignments not turned in will be made on a case-by-case basis, but do note that this policy is normally maintained.
Policy for forum assignments turned in late	I reserve the right to subtract five points for each day that any part of a forum assignment is late. If any part of the forum assignment is late, then students have 72 hours after the forum assignment deadline to submit the forum assignment. Once the 72 hours are up, the student normally receives a 0 for the forum assignment, and normally the forum assignment will no longer be accepted. All final decisions regarding late forum assignments will be made on a case-by-case basis, but do note that this lateness policy is typically maintained.
Policy for tests not turned in	As a general rule, any test not turned in will receive 0 points, and a student could receive an F for the course if several of the tests are not turned in. All decisions regarding tests not turned in will be made on a case-by-case basis, but do note that this policy is normally maintained.
Policy for tests turned in late	I reserve the right to subtract ten points for each day that a test is late. If the test is late, then students have 48 hours after the test deadline to submit the test. Once those 48 hours are up, the student normally receives a 0 for the test, and normally the test will no longer be accepted. All final decisions regarding late tests will be made on a case-by-case basis, but do note that this lateness policy is typically maintained.

Course Policies (2): Grading, UNM Learn Usage, Communication, etc.

Grading Criteria and Weighting	<u>Grade component weighting</u>
	<p>Tests 40%</p> <p>Final exam-essay 15%</p> <p>Discussion Forums 45%</p>
	<u>Final Course Grade</u>
	Throughout the course, you can look to the 'Weighted Total' column on UNM Learn to see your overall percentage to date, and the corresponding letter grade. This allows you to see how you are doing in the course. The percentage margins that correspond to the final overall letter grade for the course are as follows:
	<i>Weighted total grade between...</i>
	93.5% and up to 100% = A
	89.5% and less than 93.5% = A-
	86.5% and less than 89.5% = B+
	83.5% and less than 86.5% = B
	79.5% and less than 83.5% = B-
	76.5% and less than 79.5% = C+
	73.5% and less than 76.5% = C
	69.5% and less than 73.5% = C-

	<p>66.5% and less than 69.5% = D+</p> <p>59.5% and less than 66.5% = D</p> <p>any percentage less than 59.5% earns an F for the course</p>
UNM Learn Usage	<p>Especially as this is a fully online course, students need to have regular access to a computer and Internet for email, submitting assignments on UNM Learn, and for accessing all course content on UNM Learn. The course is run through UNM Learn, and the course requires that students know how to use UNM Learn. Use of UNM email by students is required.</p>
Communication and receiving grades and feedback	<p>Students are welcome to contact me about the course at any time. When a student contacts me by email, he/she can expect a reply within a day or so, including weekends.</p> <p>In terms of receiving grades and feedback, tests are normally graded automatically through UNM Learn, so students can expect to receive their grade on a test directly after having completed the test. For discussion forum assignments, students can usually expect to receive a grade and some comments on the assignment within a few days after the due date of the last post in the assignment.</p>
PowerPoint notes to guide you, and videos	<p>On our UNM site, you will find several sets of notes (PowerPoint notes) that trace and reflect the readings and course content and are intended to help guide you with respect to the readings and assignments. These notes are recommended for your use as you progress through the course, but they are not required reading. There are also a number of videos to guide you as well.</p>
Plagiarism and Cheating	<p>All issues involving academic integrity and/or plagiarism will be dealt with according to UNM guidelines. As a general rule, a plagiarized essay normally receives 0 points, and more severe penalties (including an "F" for the course, and/or penalties more severe than that) are possible. Plagiarized forum assignments normally receive 0 points, and more severe penalties (including an "F" for the course, and/or penalties more severe than that) are possible. Submitted tests that violate academic integrity normally receive 0 points, and more severe penalties (including an "F" for the course, and/or penalties more severe than that) are possible. Also, below is the link to UNM Academic Dishonesty Policy: https://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html.</p>
Students with Needs for Special Accommodations	<p>Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 277-3506 for additional information. If you feel that you need accommodations, but have not documented your disability, please contact Jeanne Lujan, the coordinator for Equal Access Services at 925-8910 or jmlujan@unm.edu. Failure to notify that office in a timely manner may hinder the university's ability to assist participants successfully complete the course.</p>
Title IX Compliance	<p>In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered responsible employees, (see pg. 15 - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA, must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html.</p>

Course policies (3): Other Policies

<p>Syllabus and auditing</p>	<p>Any and all parts of the syllabus are subject to change; auditing of the course is not permitted</p>
<p>Deadlines and online coursework</p>	<p>Odd things happen in cyberspace - computers crash, emails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, and logins fail. Do not wait for the last minute to do your work. <i>Allow time to meet deadlines!</i> Have backup computer access should your computer fail, such as at a neighbor's or friend's place, or at work. As we will be using UNM Learn for the course, make sure you know how to submit your assignments on UNM Learn. I will give you the help that I can in terms of UNM Learn usage, but ultimately, you are responsible for knowing how to use UNM Learn, and you are responsible for getting any training you need in order to use UNM Learn. You are also responsible for resolving all technical and IT-related issues that affect your using UNM Learn for the course, and that affect any aspect of your participation in the course.</p> <p>You are responsible for submitting your assignments on time, no matter what kinds of problems you might have – including (but not limited to) personal problems, time management problems, work problems, family problems, and computer/IT problems. Exceptions for turning in assignments late – for whatever reason – will be made only in the most extraordinary of circumstances, and will be made on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>IT/UNM Learn/email-related technical problems</p>	<p>You are responsible for resolving any IT/technical issues, including those involving UNM Learn, so that you can complete your assignments on time and engage with the course normally. If you claim that any kind of IT or UNM Learn issue has inhibited you from completing the assignments on time and/or submitting them in the correct fashion, then I will do what I can to help. However, there are limitations to how much I can help, and in cases where you need more technical help with UNM Learn, you are responsible for going to the relevant UNM technical staff and for getting an assessment of the problem and why it inhibited your completing the assignments, and you are also responsible for getting the problem resolved.</p>
<p>Extra credit and end of course</p>	<p>Opportunities for extra credit assignments are occasionally made available to students. However, if I decide to make extra credit opportunities available to the class, then I will announce this to the class toward the end of the course. Do note that the amount of credit to be earned from these possible opportunities is usually rather minimal. So in any case, students should not expect to depend on possible extra credit assignments to boost their grade very much.</p> <p>The course ends on 11:30 pm on Sunday, 12/12/21. Normally, no assignments will be accepted after this deadline. Assignments which have <i>already</i> received a grade of 0 due to poor performance, lateness, academic integrity violations, etc. will normally <i>not</i> be considered for submission or re-submission before or after the 12/12/21 deadline (so, any grade of 0 will normally remain a 0).</p>