



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

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## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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- Professor: L. Dean Allen, Ph.D.
- Email: [AllenL14@nwfsc.edu](mailto:AllenL14@nwfsc.edu)
- Phone: 850-729-6027
- Office Hours: Monday 9:45-10:45, 2:30-3:30, 5:00-8:00; Tuesday 11:00-1:00; Wednesday 9:45-10:45; Thursday 11:00-1:00. By Zoom: <https://nwfsc.zoom.us/j/96810732614>
- Office Location (Campus/Building/Room): Niceville Campus, Building 100 (Mattie Kelly Arts Center), Office 123

## INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications. When you communicate with the instructor via e-mail, you should expect a reply within twenty-four business hours. If you have not received a reply or are feeling anxious about something, please contact me again via e-mail or telephone. I am eager to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

## COURSE INFORMATION

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- Course Name and Number: PHI 2010 L04, Introduction to Philosophy (20059)
- Class Location (Campus/Building/Room): Online
- Class Modality: Online
- Class Days: Online – January 12, 2026 – April 30, 2026 (Session 1)
- Class Times: Online
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: See “Course Schedule” document on the course website.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will be introduced to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, including topics from the western philosophical tradition, and various problems in philosophy. Students will strengthen their intellectual skills, become more effective learners, and develop broad foundational knowledge. In addition and to the extent possible, the course will provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of western civilization and the American democracy.

## COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will develop critical thinking skills.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of classical Western philosophical views.
- Students will analyze, explain, and evaluate foundational concepts of epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

A passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of “C” or better, or exemption from placement testing.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

The required textbook is Robert C. Solomon, Kathleen M. Higgins, and Clancy Martin, eds., *Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings*, 13<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford University Press, 2024.

## **ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES**

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### **Participation in the Course**

Students are expected to log in to the course website every day. When you log in, you should view materials prepared for you, read all threads in the Online Discussions, make your own posts, and reply to others’ posts during the days we are covering each topic.

This is not a self-paced course. See the “Course Schedule” document on our course website for the dates we will cover each topic. You are expected to complete all work for each topic during the dates we cover the topic. When the dates for a topic end, students will not be able to complete online discussions on the topic.

Participation and Contribution to Online Discussions is a very important part of the course, and it will be a major part of each student’s final course grade (see below under “Grading Scheme and Procedures.”

### **Online Learning Conduct**

Philosophy is an active pursuit, and you will be expected to engage the materials actively. During the course, you will be expected to contribute by reading, writing, listening, and providing feedback to the professor and your fellow students. You likely will have different convictions and points of view from those of the professor and your fellow students. You are expected to respect others and act toward others with courtesy at all times. You do not have to agree with the professor or other students, but you are expected to listen, speak, write, and provide feedback in positive ways.

### **Assignments**

#### **PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO ONLINE DISCUSSIONS (20% OF GRADE)**

Participation and contribution to discussions account for 20% of your grade in this course. I believe that students learn best when they are engaged actively with the course material and their fellow learners. Therefore, you are expected to read all assignments and contribute to online discussions **DURING the days we are covering each topic**. When the dates for each topic end, you will not be able to make online discussion posts on the topic.

You do not need any background in philosophy to participate successfully. You need only to read the assignments, log in to the course website each day, contribute to discussions, ask questions, and be willing to learn.

You are expected to log in to the course website every day, and **you are expected to make at least one original post and one response in every online discussion topic related to course content. At least half of your posts must be replies to your fellow students' posts.** If you do not meet the requirement for online discussion, your grade will suffer.

By the end of the course, you should have made a **minimum of forty posts**, and the posts should **include at least twenty replies to others' posts.** Normally, your grade for online participation and contribution will follow this chart:

Number of Online Posts	Highest Possible Grade for Participation and Contribution to Online Discussions
40 Posts (20 original threads and 20 replies)	100%
36 Posts (evenly divided between original threads and replies)	90%
32 Posts (evenly divided between original threads and replies)	80%
28 Posts (evenly divided between original threads and replies)	70%
24 Posts (evenly divided between original threads and replies)	60%
20 Posts (evenly divided between original threads and replies)	50%
Less than 20 Posts	No Credit

#### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (60% OF GRADE)**

**Written Assignments:** There are **three written assignments.** For each written assignment, you will be given three questions. You should write a **minimum of 250 words to answer each question** on a Written Assignment. **At the end of each answer you prepare, you should indicate the number of words you have written.**

**For every question you answer on each Written Assignment, you must include at least one citation from the Video Lectures and at least one citation from the textbook.** (By citing these sources, you will demonstrate that you have viewed the Video Lectures fully and read the assigned sections in the textbook completely.)

Please **use in-text citations** and cite the sources as follows:

When citing the Textbook:

(Solomon, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., 55)

which means the textbook, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, and page 55.

When citing the Video Lectures:

(Allen, Video Lecture 9 - Reality Immaterialism 3:14)

which means Video Lecture 9 by Allen, titled Reality Immaterialism. Your quote can be found at 3 minute and 14 seconds in the video lecture.

At the end of your assignment, include a Works Cited page with an entry for the Video Lectures and an entry for the textbook as follows:

Allen, Dean. Video Lectures.

Solomon, Robert C., Kathleen M. Higgins, and Clancy Martin, eds., *Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., Oxford University Press, 2021.

Every Written Assignment is to be typewritten and double-spaced using 12 pt. font (Times New Roman or equivalent). Every written assignment should be saved as a **Microsoft Word document or PDF file** and submitted on the course website by the deadline stated in the "Course Schedule" (a separate document you can find on the course website).

**ALWAYS KEEP AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF YOUR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS.** While you will submit assignments on the course website, it is a good idea to keep an electronic copy for yourself.

**All work submitted must be your own.** Plagiarism is a very serious offense and is not acceptable. When you use additional resources, you must cite them in the text and at the end of your assignment. **You are required to follow the Student Handbook guidelines for academic integrity. Do not present others' ideas as your own, including using artificial intelligence (AI) software/programs or AI communication assistants to complete your work in this course. Plagiarism and/or AI use may result in a zero for the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and possible disciplinary action.**

**PLEASE NOTE: If you plagiarize, use AI programs, or utilize AI communication assistants to prepare your work, you may be given only one opportunity during the entire course to revise and resubmit an assignment. Subsequent examples of plagiarism may result in a zero for the assignments.**

If you choose to resubmit the assignment, the maximum grade you may earn will be 50 out of 100.

Because Written Assignment #3 is due near the end of the course, there is no opportunity to resubmit it. Plagiarism, AI use, or utilizing AI communication assistants on Written Assignment #3 may result in a zero for the assignment.

**PHILOSOPHER PRESENTATION (TOTAL OF 20% OF GRADE. 5% FROM PHILOSOPHER PRESENTATION SUBJECT AND 5% FROM PHILOSOPHER PRESENTATION))**

This course fulfills the requirements of Speaking-across-the-Curriculum. You will complete this requirement by making an oral presentation during the course. Your presentation must last **at least three but not more than five minutes**. Near the beginning of the course, you either can choose a Philosopher or a topic of interest in philosophy, which will become the subject of your presentation.

By the due date listed in the “Course Schedule” document, you will **submit on the course website** the **name of the philosopher** you will cover in your Philosopher Presentation, which will count for 5% of your final course grade. (See the “Course Schedule” for the specific date.)

Then, you will prepare a presentation about your philosopher, which will count for 15% of your final course grade. The due date for submitting your presentation is listed in the “Course Schedule” document.

You will **do two things with your presentation**:

1. **Upload your Philosopher Presentation in the Discussions** area of our course website. Uploading your presentation in Discussions allows other students to view it and learn from you.
2. **Upload your Philosopher Presentation as an Assignment on the course website**. This will allow me to grade it, send you private feedback, and record your grade in the Grade Book on the course website.

You will need to **upload your presentation in both places** (Discussions and Assignments) **by the due date**.

Your presentation must be based on a written outline in or with the file(s) you upload. An effective way to do this is to prepare a PowerPoint file with embedded audio or a separate audio file. The PowerPoint slides are your outline, and the audio clip is your oral presentation. I recommend the PowerPoint method, but you may use other methods so long as your fellow students and the professor can **view and hear** your presentation. To prepare the audio file, you may record the oral portion on your Smart Phone or computer and upload the audio file in addition to the PowerPoint slides.

**In the Philosopher Presentation,** you will share the following information about the philosopher:

- The philosopher's birth and death dates
- The philosopher's social context (What was happening at the time the person lived, and how may this have affected her or his work?)
- The philosopher's contributions to philosophy (and, perhaps, beyond)
- The philosopher's influence on philosophy (and, perhaps, beyond)
- The philosopher's significance (Why do we study this person today?)
- The philosopher's relation to topic(s) we cover in this course
- At least one surprising fact you learned about the philosopher
- Works Cited list of all sources used to prepare the presentation.

All work submitted in your presentation must be your own. **Plagiarism or AI use may result in a zero for the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and possible disciplinary action.**

**XC PERSONAL JOURNALS (OPTIONAL, CAN ADD 5% TO FINAL GRADE)**

**XC Personal Journals (Extra-Credit Personal Journals).** Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to write Personal Journal entries about topics or questions related to our course material. Generally, you do not need to do additional preparation for journal entries beyond reading the text and participating in discussions.

Each XC Personal Journal must be submitted on the course website by the deadline given in the "Course Schedule." Like other written assignments, XC Personal Journals should be typewritten, double-spaced using 12 pt. font, and saved as either a **Microsoft Word document or PDF file.**

**By completing at least five XC Personal Journal entries, you can earn up to 5% extra credit to be added to your final grade in the course.**

## Grading Scheme

Final course grades will be determined using the following percentages for assignments:

20% Participation and Contributions to Online Discussions

(You are expected to log in to the course website every day, read all threads in the Discussions, make your own posts, and reply to others' posts **DURING the days we are covering each topic**. See the "Course Schedule" for the dates we will cover each topic.)

20% Written Assignment #1 (See "Written Assignments" below for more information.)

20% Written Assignment #2

20% Written Assignment #3

5% Philosopher Presentation Subject

15% Philosopher Presentation (See "Philosopher Presentation" below for more information.)

100% TOTAL

+ 5% Extra Credit Available – by submitting at least five XC Personal Journals (Extra-Credit Personal Journals)

Grade		Range
A		90 – 100 %
B		80 – 89 %
C		70 – 79 %
D		60 – 69 %
F		59 and less %

## MAKE-UP WORK

**Online Discussions.** A major portion of your work in this course is **participation in the online Discussions** through the course website. You are expected to post discussion threads, read others' posts, and reply to other posts **DURING the days we are covering each topic**. **It is not possible to make up online discussions after we finish each topic.**

Participating in online discussions after we finish a topic is similar to going to a classroom after everyone has left. You may have wonderful things to say and great insights to share, but you

are all alone. The goal is interacting with your fellow students and professor, and we do this by online discussions during the days we cover each topic.

**Written Assignments.** Every written assignment is to be typewritten and double-spaced using 12 pt. font, saved as a Microsoft Word document or PDF file, and submitted by the deadline stated in the “Course Schedule” (a separate document you can find on the course website).

**You will submit assignments on the course website, and each assignment is due by Midnight Central Time on the date stated in the “Course Schedule” document.**

Please be aware of due dates and work ahead so you will not miss deadlines. **If you submit work late, the maximum grade you may earn will be 50 out of 100.**

Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date. **After one week following the due date, assignments will not be accepted, and you will receive no credit for the assignment. PLEASE NOTE: Written Assignment #3 must be submitted by the due date. Because it is due near the end of the course, Written Assignment #3 cannot be accepted late.**

**Philosopher Presentation.** Like written assignments, **your Philosopher Presentation must be completed and submitted by the due date.** If you submit your presentation late and within one week of the due date, the maximum grade you may earn will be 50 out of 100.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

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NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Academic Integrity</a>	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students’ learning environments.</p>

<a href="#"><u>Accommodations</u></a>	The <a href="#"><u>Accommodation Resource Center</u></a> at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.
<a href="#"><u>Attendance</u></a>	Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.
<a href="#"><u>Tutoring Services</u></a>	Tutoring services are available in person and online.
<a href="#"><u>Counseling Services</u></a>	All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.
<a href="#"><u>Student Code of Conduct</u></a>	Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
<a href="#"><u>Student Complaints</u></a>	NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.
<a href="#"><u>Student Rights and Responsibilities</u></a>	All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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### TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE COURSES

This course is entirely online. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at [online@nwfsc.edu](mailto:online@nwfsc.edu) or call 850-729-6464.

### EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS**

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism and originality. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

**ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN**

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

**WELCOME TO CLASS**

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!