Philosophy 101 B - Introduction to Philosophy
TTh, 4:00 PM – 5:50 PM
MAIN (Main 309- Classroom)

Contact Information
Professor: Damon Watson
Email: dwatson@carroll.edu
Office: Philosophy and Religious Studies House, Wright Street
Office hours: 3-3:50 TTh

Course Description and Objectives
This class is an introduction to philosophy. We will investigate some basic questions that have arisen within metaphysics, epistemology, logic, and ethics. To help us investigate these questions, we will work through texts of some of the most influential thinkers in the history of philosophy. These thinkers will range from ancient times to the 20th century. Some topics to be discussed are: knowledge, skepticism, God, the nature of reality, and the human being.

The course objectives are:

1. To introduce students to some of the basic questions philosophy investigates.
2. To familiarize students with some of the methods of philosophy.
3. To develop the ability to read a philosophical text both critically and charitably.
4. To cultivate argumentative skills, both analytic and synthetic.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course students will:

1. Have an introductory knowledge of some of the fundamental fields of study within philosophy.
2. An introductory knowledge of some key figures in the history of philosophy.
3. Practiced constructing and critiquing arguments, both orally and in writing.

These outcomes will be assessed by means of the final exam, quizzes, short papers, and in class discussions.

Required Texts
Steven Cahn, *Classics of Western Philosophy*, Hackett Publishing Company, 8th edition,
ISBN: 160384743X

All other readings will be made available through Canvas.
**Course Requirements**

**Exams** (70%) – There will be two non-cumulative exams and a final. The final will be cumulative. The exams will include essay questions, short answer questions, and multiple choice questions. The first two exams will each be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam will be worth 30%. There are 140 possible points from exams. With the exception of outstanding circumstances, missed exams cannot be made up.

**Quizzes** (20%) – There will be several reading quizzes throughout the semester. You will take these quizzes on Canvas. Each quiz will focus on the reading that we have recently covered. You will have the entire weekend to work on these quizzes. There are 40 possible points from quizzes. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

**Class Participation** (10%) – To receive full credit for class participation, you must be an active contributor during class time. This means, for instance, that you will answer questions during a class meeting and come prepared with questions and thoughts about the reading. The quizzes should help you prepare to participate fully in our class meetings. There are 20 possible participation points.

**Evaluation**
Letter grades will be assigned according to these percentages:

A 93-100%
AB 88-92.9%
B 83-87.9%
BC 78-82.9%
C 70-77.9%
D 60-69.9%
F 0-59.9%

**Policies**

**Academic Integrity** – The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook (https://my.carrollu.edu/ICS/Departments/Student_Affairs). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment or failure in the course. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please ask.

**Disabilities** – Any requests for accommodation must be made by the first week of class and through the Walter Young Center (wyc@carrollu.edu, or call 262-524-7335).

**Technology** – Please be sure to silence your cellphone upon entering class. If you must text for some reason during class time, please exit the classroom to do so. If you are texting in the middle of class it will negatively affect your participation grade.
Modifications to the Syllabus – The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).

Attendance Policy – I will allow four unexcused absences during the semester. For each absence in excess of four, your participation grade will be dropped by 2%.

Tentative Course Schedule

September
7 – syllabus, course intro, some preliminaries
12 – *Euthyphro* pg. 18-26
14 – *Apology* pg. 27-39
19 – *Phaedo* pg. 47-62 Quiz 1
21 – *Pheado* pg. 62-79
26 – *Encheiridion* 340-352 Quiz 2
28 – *Epicurus* 332-338

October
3 – *On Free Choice of the Will* pg. 374-380 Quiz 3
5 – no class
10 – Review
12 – Exam 1
17 – no class
19 – *On Free Choice of the Will* pg. 380-390
24 – “Divine Omniscience and Voluntary Action” Quiz 4
26 – “An Argument for Incompatibilism”
31 – “Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility” Quiz 5
November

2 - Meditations on First Philosophy pg. 533-539

7 – Meditations on First philosophy 539-552 Quiz 6

9 – Meditations on First philosophy 552-559

14 – Review

16 – Exam 2

21 – What Pragmatism Means 1268-1278

23 – no class

28 – The Will to Believe 1278-1289 Quiz 7

30 – The Will to Believe 1278-1289

December

5 – Sense and Sensibility pg. 1353-1366

7 – Sense and Sensibility pg. 1353-1366

12 – review Quiz 8

14 - review

15 – FINAL EXAM, 2 PM