



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Introduction to Philosophy: LCTH1340 2023

Fall

---

Casey Evans  
Registrar and Director of Student Success  
cevans@nobts.edu

**Note: Please ALWAYS include your name, Student ID, and Course Code (LCTH1340-ONL) in every email.**

---

*New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.*

---

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be introduced to major philosophical themes. Additionally, students will be exposed to philosophical readings and a study of major philosophical themes. Students will also be introduced to the basic study of logic. Prerequisite: None.

### COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Students will have a basic grasp of the key concepts and issues in philosophy as they relate to Christian thought. This will be measured by the quizzes and exams.
2. Students will be able to defend the faith against various kinds of attacks and criticisms. This will be measured by the position paper.
3. Students will learn the basic skills necessary for critical reading and thinking. This will be measured by the critical response paper.

### COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

(PACI)—Dew, James K., Jr., and Paul M. Gould, *Philosophy: A Christian Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019. ISBN: 9780801097997

(PTP)—Foreman, Mark. *Prelude to Philosophy*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2014. ISBN: 9780830839605

(ALBNP)—Copan, Paul. *A Little Book for New Philosophers*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2016. ISBN: 9780830851478

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Quizzes (20% of final grade).** Quizzes are over the lectures and the readings. There is almost always at least 1 quiz per week, but often there are 2 per week. All quizzes are cumulative, so you will need to stay fresh on everything. There are 26 total quizzes and there are no make-ups, even for excused absences. The lowest 4 quiz grades will be dropped. All quizzes are open-note, but closed book. You may, however, take as many notes from the readings as you like and use those notes in the quizzes, but you may not use the books in the quizzes. Each quiz is only open for 10 minutes so be ready and studied up!
2. **Exams (each exam 20% of final grade, 40% total).** Exams will be given over material from the lectures and assigned reading. Exams consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or short essay. Like the quizzes, everything is cumulative. Like the quizzes, they are open note, but closed book. Again, feel free to take notes from the readings as you read. You may use whatever notes you take for the exams, but you may not keep the books open.
3. **Attendance and Participation (15% of final grade).** In addition to the lectures and readings for the course, students are expected to participate in at least 2 of 3 pre-scheduled virtual meetings throughout the semester. The goal of these meetings is to facilitate discussion on the big-picture ideas and make connections between units. The schedule of these meetings will be available on Canvas. I EXPECT YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS!
4. **Position Paper (15% of final grade).** Students will write a 3-4 page paper dealing with one of the topics covered in the course. The student will write a paper expressing his/her position on that issue. It is imperative that the student make a case for her position in the paper. Higher grades will be given to those papers that incorporate some research and demonstrate clear argumentation. All students must work with the Writing Center. Papers must use proper grammar, be checked for spelling, and comply to Turabian style and formatting. See course schedule for due date.
5. **Book Review (10%).** Students will write a 600-800 word review of Paul Copan's book *A Little Book for New Philosophers*. No more than half the book review should be summary. At least half of the book will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the book. See course schedule for due date.

## GRADING SCALE

- A: 93 – 100
- B: 85 – 92
- C: 77 – 84
- D: 70 – 76
- F: below 70

## COURSE OUTLINE

All assignments and quizzes are due on Sunday nights as designated in this course schedule by 11:59pm CT.

Unit 1		Introductory Matters/Epistemology	
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Aug. 14</b>	<b>-Lecture 1:</b> What is Philosophy and Why Should We Do it?  <b>-Lecture 2:</b> What are Worldviews and How Do They Form?	<b>-Reading 1:</b> PACI, p. 1-10; PTP p. 15-50	<b>-Lecture 1-2 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 1 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Aug. 21</b>	<b>-Lecture 3:</b> How Do We Assess Worldviews?  <b>-Lecture 4:</b> What is Logic and How Does it Work?  <b>-Lecture 5:</b> What's the Difference Between Deduction, Induction, and Abduction?	<b>-Reading 2:</b> PTP, p. 121-138	<b>-Lecture 3-5 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 2 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Aug. 28</b>	<b>-Lecture 6:</b> What Are Informal Fallacies?  <b>-Lecture 7:</b> What is Epistemology?  <b>-Lecture 8:</b> What makes a thing true?	<b>-Reading 3:</b> PTP, p. 143-166; PACI, p. 11-14, 15-25	<b>-Lecture 6-8 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 3 Quiz</b>
Unit 2		Epistemology/Metaphysics	
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Sep. 4</b>	<b>-Lecture 9:</b> What is knowledge?  <b>-Lecture 10:</b> What is Revelation and Do We Have It?		<b>-Lecture 9-10 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Sep. 11</b>	<b>-Lecture 11:</b> What is Justification and Reformed Epistemology?  <b>-Lecture 12:</b> What do We Perceive?  <b>-Lecture 13:</b> What are Intellectual Virtues?	<b>-Reading 5:</b> PACI, p. 26-39	<b>-Lecture 11-13 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 5 Quiz</b>  <b><u>-Book Review Due by Sep 17 at 11:59 pm.</u></b>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Sep. 18</b>	<b>-Lecture 14:</b> How Should We View Faith and Reason?  <b>-Lecture 15:</b> What is Metaphysics?  <b>-Lecture 16:</b> Reality: Physical or Non-Physical?	<b>-Reading 6:</b> PACI, p. 40-71; PTP, p. 77-102	<b>-Lecture 14-16 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 6 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Sep. 25</b>	<b>-Lecture 17:</b> What are Universals & Particulars, Accidentals & Essentials?  <b>-Lecture 18:</b> How Do Particulars Form?  <b>-Lecture 19:</b> How Do Things Change and Still Continue to be?	<b>-Reading 7:</b> PACI, p. 89-115; PACI, p. 116-130	<b>-Lecture 17-19 Quiz</b>  <b>-Reading 7 Quiz</b>  <b><u>-Midterm Due by Oct. 8 at 11:59 pm.</u></b>

<b>Fall Break – October 2-6</b>			
<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Metaphysics/Philosophy of Religion</b>		
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Oct. 9</b>	- <b>Lecture 20:</b> What is Freewill and Do We Have It?  - <b>Lecture 21:</b> What is Middle Knowledge?  - <b>Lecture 22:</b> What is Philosophy of Religion?	- <b>Reading 8:</b> PACI, p. 131-143	- <b>Lecture 20-22 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 8 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Oct. 16</b>	- <b>Lecture 23:</b> Are Human Beings Bodies or Souls?  - <b>Lecture 24:</b> Is It Possible to Survive Death?: Part 1  - <b>Lecture 25:</b> Is It Possible to Survive Death?: Part 2	- <b>Reading 9:</b> PACI, p. 144-162; 206-222	- <b>Lecture 23-25 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 9 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Oct. 23</b>	- <b>Lecture 26:</b> Does God Exist?—Cosmological Arguments  - <b>Lecture 27:</b> Does God Exist?—Teleological Arguments  - <b>Lecture 28:</b> Does God Exist? Ontological Arguments	- <b>Reading 10:</b> PACI, p. 72-88, 165-177	- <b>Lecture 26-28 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 10 Quiz</b>
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Philosophy of Religion/Ethics</b>		
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Oct. 30</b>	- <b>Lecture 29:</b> Are Miracles Really Possible?: Part 1  - <b>Lecture 30:</b> Are Miracles Really Possible?: Part 2	- <b>Reading 11:</b> PACI, p. 190-205	- <b>Lecture 29-30 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 11 Quiz</b>
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov. 6</b>	- <b>Lecture 31:</b> Is Evil a Problem for God?: Part 1  - <b>Lecture 32:</b> Is Evil a Problem for God?: Part 2  - <b>Lecture 33:</b> Is Evil a Problem for God?: Part 3	- <b>Reading 12:</b> PACI, p. 178-189	- <b>Lecture 31-33 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 12 Quiz</b>  <b>-<u>Position Paper Due by Nov. 12 at 11:59 PM</u></b>
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Nov. 13</b>	- <b>Lecture 34:</b> What is Divine Hiddenness and is it a Problem?  - <b>Lecture 35:</b> What is Ethics?		- <b>Lecture 34-35 Quiz</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Break – November 20-24</b>			
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Nov. 27</b>	- <b>Lecture 36:</b> What is Metaethics?  - <b>Lecture 37:</b> What is Normative Ethics?	- <b>Reading 14:</b> PACI, p. 223-254	- <b>Lecture 36-37 Quiz</b>  - <b>Reading 14 Quiz</b>  <b>-<u>Final Exam Due by Dec. 6 at 11:59 PM</u></b>

**ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION**

1. Attendance Policy: Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through Canvas and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: There are no make-up quizzes or exams. Students are given very large windows of time before the close of quizzes and exams. Students may turn papers in up to two weeks late of the due day, with a letter grade and a half per week they are late.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary’s website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course’s Blackboard site.
8. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Corduan, Winfried. *No Doubt About It: The Case for Christianity*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997. ISBN 0805416471.
- Reese, William L. *Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern and Western Thought*. Expanded ed. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1996. ISBN 1573926213.
- Audi, Robert, ed. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Bush, L. Russ, III. *A Handbook for Christian Philosophy*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. ISBN 0310518210.
- Copleston, Frederick. *A History of Philosophy*. Vol.1, *Greece and Rome*. Westminster, MD: Newman, 1959.
- Craig, Edward, ed. *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. London: 1998.
- Edwards, Paul, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. New York: Macmillan, 1967.
- Gaarder, Jostein. *Sophie's World—A Novel About the History of Philosophy*. Translated by Paulette Møller. New York: Berkley Books, 1991. ISBN 0425152251.
- Honderich, Ted, ed. *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Lavine, T. Z. *From Socrates to Sartre: The Philosophic Quest*. New York: Bantam Books, 1984. ISBN 0553251619.
- Roth, John, ed. *World Philosophers and Their Works*. 3 vols. Pasadena: Salem Press, 2000.
- Russell, Bertrand. *A History of Western Philosophy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972. ISBN 0671201581.
- Sahakian, William S., and Mabel Lewis Sahakian. *Ideas of the Great Philosophers*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1966. ISBN 1566192714.
- Windelband, Wilhelm. *A History of Philosophy*. Vol.1, *Greek, Roman, and Medieval*. New York: Harper & Row, 1958.