

Précis of Syllabus
Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1030) (Seaquist)
Middle Tennessee State University
Fall, 2012

The syllabus for this course is long, and gives you a lot of useful information. This précis is designed to highlight points of particular importance, which students should not overlook.

(1) I make my expectations for this course very clear at the outset. To do well in this course, you'll need to keep up with the readings, do written homework by the due date, and come to class regularly. Course readings are all appropriate for an introductory course, but this doesn't mean they are easy. You should expect to read them all several times, and read them carefully. In class you'll practice the skills you need to succeed in this course; few students enter the course with these skills sufficiently developed. Online lectures are designed to give you the background to do the readings, and your knowledge of their content will be tested on quizzes; moving the lectures online allows you to spend time in class writing, discussing your writing with your peers, and asking questions. To do well in this class, you need to be committed to doing the work and keeping up with the work. If you do that, you should do fine.

(2) Read the **syllabus** at the start of the term, and learn what it says. Keep a copy in your course folder, and refer to it during the semester. There's a schedule in the back that lists all assignments (including days written homework is due). Updated copies will be always be available on D2L. There will be a quiz on the syllabus on September 6.

(3) Buy all the **books** (including the bulkpack) at the beginning of the course. Don't wait until you need a book, because the bookstore doesn't always order sufficient copies, and starts returning them to publishers mid-semester. You won't be able to do well in this course if you don't have the readings.

(4) **Online lectures** require active listening skills. They're designed to facilitate this. Listen to them (in parts or in their entirety) as many times as necessary. Take notes. Write down any questions you have, and ask them at the beginning of the next class.

(5) Written **homework** must be submitted online by the deadline for you to receive credit; these must be submitted in **.doc**, **.docx**, or **.rtf** format. Also, you should bring paper copies to class.

(6) If you want to **email** me, use my university account (cseaquist@mtsu.edu). I rarely check the "email" embedded within D2L, so don't use it to contact me. I will send all official email to your MTSU account, so if you use another system, make sure you forward all your MTSU email to it.

(7) You'll need regular access to a **computer** for this course. Written homework must be submitted through D2L. Online lectures are in Flash format, so Apple products (including phones, tablets, laptops, and desktops) probably won't be able to play them. If you can bring a **laptop** to class, please do so. Check your email and D2L regularly for updated information.

(8) Make sure you come to class on **exam** days. Since you'll have the questions ahead of time, you should be able to arrive well prepared. Understand what I expect of you.