

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.**

## MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

### Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

GSU 2250 Introduction to Philosophy, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

Introductory study – partly historical and partly topical – examining methods and assumptions of philosophical systems, theories of knowledge, metaphysics, values, ethics, philosophy of religion, and the worldviews of leading philosophers in these areas. Considers some trends in contemporary philosophy. Emphasizes the development of a Christian philosophy of life.

*Prerequisites: None*

### Course Goals

In this course you will:

- Learn patterns of good and poor deductive and inductive reasoning
- Learn the historical flow of ideas in Western civilization from the presocratic philosophers to postmodernism
- Understand the relationship between philosophy and Christian theology
- Gain practice identifying and engaging various philosophies (“worldviews”)

### Course Objectives

After completing this course you should be able to:

1. Identify and employ good reasoning, and identify and avoid poor reasoning
2. Articulate an accurate and comprehensive history of ideas from ancient times to the present
3. Express the key ideas, as well as the strengths and weaknesses, of most of the major Western philosophical figures and ideas of the last 2,500 years
4. Identify and appreciate several ways in which philosophy and theology mutually interact
5. Encounter new material with confidence and the tools to identify the general shape of the underlying worldview

### Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

## Assignments

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two areas: discussion boards and reading

**Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed. Each week there will be two discussion board questions posted. Students are required to pick one question to post in with a new thread, and to respond to at least two threads on the “other” question. At the end of the week, they must post a response reacting to the comments to their “first” question.

**Reading:** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading prior to class for discussion purposes. You will report your reading at the end of each week.

2. **EXAMS:** There are two (2) exams in this course. The first will cover a brief survey of logic, and the philosophers and ideas through the medieval period. The second will cover the modern and postmodern periods.
3. **PAPER:**  
You are to write a paper of 2,500-3,000 words, due at the end of the course (see schedule below). You have two (2) options as to how to write this paper.

## Assessments

Class Participation: Discussion Boards and Reading	30%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Paper	20%
	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

## Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at [my.moody.edu](http://my.moody.edu). If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>.

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org). These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at bible.org.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U.

### **Course Copyright Statement**

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