

Welcome to PHIL 206: Introduction to Philosophy

Greetings!

My name is Dr. Chris Gilbert, and I shall be your instructor in the online version of Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 206). The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some important details prior to the commencement of the course. Please read this letter carefully!

Basic Requirements

This course requires you to have access to the Internet and a Cuesta College e-mail account (which is generated automatically for all registered students). Since Cuesta College provides me with your college-generated e-mail address, this is the only e-mail address I will use when I need to contact you. Thus, you will need to do one of two things: either (a) check your Cuesta College e-mail account regularly, or (b) arrange for messages to be forwarded from your Cuesta College e-mail account to your personal e-mail account.

You will need a *reliable* computer and a *reliable* Internet service provider.

You will also need to purchase the required text for the course, which is on sale in the Cuesta College bookstore (<http://bookstore.cuesta.edu/>). Because I use a custom text printed specifically for my course, it is unlikely that you can obtain it anywhere other than the Cuesta College bookstore.

Week One: Accessing the Course Web Page

It is the responsibility of registered students to access the course web page during the first week of the semester and carefully read the following five documents:

- (1) Syllabus;
- (2) Schedule/Reading Assignments;
- (3) Navigating PHIL 206 Online;
- (4) Essay Grading Rubric; and
- (5) Lecture 1: What is Philosophy?

To access the course web page during the first week of classes, follow these instructions:

1. To get to the host site: **Go to the Cuesta College home page (www.cuesta.edu) and click on the “Canvas” tab (near the top of the page)**

2. Log in: **Enter your Canvas username and password (same as for MyCuesta)**

3. User Dashboard:

Click on the link for Phil 206: Intro to Philosophy; this will take you to the course home page.

About the Course

There are a number of things you should know about our course right from the beginning. The first is that this course is designed for those who are computer literate. If you are not a person who is both confident and comfortable working with e-mail and the Internet, then the online version of PHIL 206 is not for you.

Second, this course demands a great deal of self-motivation. It is the student's responsibility to keep on top of the reading assignments, to take the weekly reading quiz, to submit the short essay assignments on time, etc. Thus, I recommend this course only to those who are both well-organized and self-disciplined.

Finally, this course requires a large amount of reading. If you read fairly quickly, and if you tend to retain the material that you have read, this fact should not pose much of a problem for you. On the other hand, if you are a slow reader, or if you tend not to retain what you read, then you may find this course very difficult for that reason.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gilbert
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