

# Philosophy - Syllabus

Mr. Adam Springer

Email: [Adam.springer@oldham.kyschools.us](mailto:Adam.springer@oldham.kyschools.us)

Phone number: (502) 222-9461 Ext. 250

Twitter: @OCWorldHistory

Class Websites:

Weebly <http://springerhistory.weebly.com> Click on the "Philosophy" tab to go to class content

Edmodo <http://www.edmodo.com/adamspringer>

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to draw your attention to a couple of important items that will concern the layout and format of my class this year. My class is an iPad classroom at OCHS, which we call a *CIP 21 Classroom*. These iPads will stay in the class but will be used frequently for daily instruction and student-centered activities. All students will be required not only to engage and learn content related to the subject area of this class, but they will be required to learn how to use these devices in order to further their learning and 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills.

In an effort to stay updated and relevant in today's generation my course documents will be available digitally, which will conserve paper and time. There are three main digital 'places' that we will use in class on a daily basis which are Weebly, Google Drive, and Edmodo. The class Weebly is a lot like an online textbook with class content and resources such as handouts, daily activities, presentations, essays, study guides, podcasts, videos, etc. Google Drive is cloud storage which helps me share and deliver assignments to my students with a few clicks from my computer. Then Edmodo is a web based course management system that will be very helpful for students to utilize on a day-to-day in class. Students and Parents are encouraged to bookmark all three websites on their home computers and/or personal devices as it can be accessed through any web-enabled device.

## **My Goals as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher**

- 1) Give students a new model of education that best prepares them for their success in the future.
- 2) Challenge students by providing learning opportunities that incorporate high levels of technological navigational skills.
- 3) Teach students that success today is rooted in how they can use and manipulate information rather than the reliance of rote memorization.
- 4) Integrate student activities at school with what they experience on a daily basis in the real world.
- 5) Prepare students for a job market where the jobs that they will be competing for are just in their developmental stages.
- 6) Make students aware of the digital responsibility in the age of information technology and safeguarding their future by creating a positive footprint of their digital dossier.

## **Course Description**

An introduction to philosophical studies with the emphasis on issues of knowledge, reality, and meaning related to human existence. This class will help develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills in the context of discussions of God, religious belief, human nature, reality, freedom, knowledge, ethics, political obligation, and the meaning of life. Students will learn how to (1) analyze the major arguments traditionally proposed concerning these topics, (2) evaluate objections raised against those arguments, and (3) formulate replies to those objections through interactive exercises in class and writing assignments.

## **Grading Policy**

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
0-69	F

**\*\*\*Please 3-holed punch and put in the front of your Philosophy binder\*\*\***

# Philosophy - Syllabus

## **Grading Policy (continued)**

All projects, activities, assignments, homework, and writing pieces will be clearly identified with a determined point total when the assignment is introduced. These assignments will be weighted as 25% of their grade while assessments such as quizzes and tests will be weighted as 50% of their semester grade. The remaining 25% of their grade will come from class participation. Finally, there will be a comprehensive Final Exam will be given at the end of the course and it will count as **10%** of the student's overall grade. The Final Exam is a school policy for all OCHS students. Parents and guardians are encouraged to check the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to see up-to-date grades in each of their classes. This can be located through the web on the schools website at [www.oldham.k12.ky.us/ochs/](http://www.oldham.k12.ky.us/ochs/). You may need to obtain a login and password from the school to access Infinite Campus completely.

## **Policy for Tardiness**

Students are subjected to all OCHS rules regarding tardiness. Students are fully responsible to get to class on time. It is OCHS policy that students receive a 1 hour detention after their 3<sup>rd</sup> recorded tardy to class.

## **Textbooks**

1. Textbook "*Questions that Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy*" 5<sup>th</sup> Edition by Miller & Jensen
2. Supplemental Reading/Handout: "*Great Issues in Philosophy*" by James Fieser

## **Policy for Absences**

Students are subjected to all OCHS rules regarding absences. Students are fully responsible to get the work that they missed the day they return to class and are encouraged to email me the day of their absence for assignments. Time will be allotted to the student to finish the missed assignments per Board Policy. Any assessment that a student misses will need to be taken before or after school. Some exceptions can be made.

## **Classroom Supplies**

Students will be responsible to bring required materials to class with them each day. A writing utensil, paper, textbook and binder are required each day in class. Each student will need at least a 1" inch binder that is used only for Philosophy class. This will house their notes as well as a printed copy of "*Great Issues in Philosophy*" by James Fieser. Also since we are a CIP 21 iPad classroom headphones/ear buds will be needed. Most students already have these and the size or kind does not matter. Headphones can be borrowed from me but I would prefer students to have their own for their personal use.

## **Parent/Guardian Communication**

Teacher, student, and parent cooperation is encouraged for successful learning. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the easiest and perhaps fastest way to communicate with me. Feel free to access the Weebly and Edmodo website to see what is going on in class, check assignments, test dates, etc.

## **Class Participation**

Is required and is 25% of your grade. The purpose of all class discussion is to help clarify and advance the material under consideration. Please also note that this course will cover controversial issues and you will likely be exposed to views that differ from your own, particularly in the areas of moral, political and religious philosophy. When discussing these issues, you are expected to respectfully address me and your fellow students, and not let your emotions take over. If you cannot maintain an attitude of respect, or if you are exceptionally sensitive to exposure to controversial issues, then I encourage you to drop this class.

**\*\*\*Please 3-holed punch and put in the front of your Philosophy binder\*\*\***