

Syllabus

PHIL1010 Introduction to Philosophy

2013

Committee Members:

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NCCA Council of Instructional Officers Chair

Chair: 

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I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 1010

Introduction to Philosophy

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the components of philosophy through readings from the history of philosophy (ancient, modern, and contemporary) combined with the examination of topics such as metaphysics, logic, ethics, epistemology, aesthetics, philosophy of religion, freedom, and self-identity. The course exposes students to a range of ideas and readings representing a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

3.0 semester hours

3 lecture hours per week

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

A. **GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** Through reading the works of recognized philosophers and appropriate secondary sources, engaging in class discussion and other acts of critical thinking, and completing relevant assignments, the course will:

1. Explore the meaning of philosophy and describe the basic disciplines of philosophy (for example, logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, social philosophy, and aesthetics).
2. Describe the role and scope of philosophical questions in human life.
3. Explain the philosophical process and the intent of philosophical inquiry and their impact on the history of ideas, including concepts of the human self and existence of a Supreme Being.
4. Foster an appreciation for the cultural diversity within societies and their histories by examining different perspectives and the resulting values, beliefs, and practices of those societies.
5. Identify, define and present methods for evaluating a variety of argumentation modes recognizing assumptions, premises, or errors.
6. Introduce students to the analysis of philosophical questions.
7. Create opportunities for students to examine and defend their core values and beliefs.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

1. Accurately characterize the and methods of philosophy, its cultural importance and historical significance;
2. Recognize how philosophy can give new insights into life;
3. Identify the various disciplines of philosophy and their components;
4. Provide a reasonable defense of the student's core values and demonstrate understanding of opposing perspectives
5. Critically analyze and evaluate philosophical works;
6. Produce oral and written analyses that demonstrate critical thinking, reflection, and reading.
7. Use appropriate manuscript and/or research conventions.

IV. COURSE CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (chronology may vary):

1. Philosophical questions, methods and perspectives
2. Historical Foundations of Philosophy
3. Metaphysics
4. Epistemology
5. Ethics
6. Philosophy of religion
7. Logic and critical thinking
8. The human self and freedom
9. Justice and society
10. Current issues in philosophy

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Suggested texts [This list should be reviewed annually. The philosophical readings to be studied in PHIL 1010 may come from the list of texts which follows, but the instructor, at her/his discretion, may choose additional selections and/or primary works.]

1. Philosophy: The Power of Ideas Brooke Noel Moore and Ken Bruder, McGraw Hill, latest edition.
2. The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy Robert C. Solomon, Wadsworth Publishing, latest edition.
3. Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings Robert C. Solomon, Oxford University Press, USA, latest edition.
4. Philosophy: The Quest for Truth Louis P. Pojman, Oxford University Press, latest edition.
5. Reason and Responsibility, Feinberg and Shafer-Landau, eds., Wadsworth, 14th edition.
6. Philosophy Demystified, Arp and Watson, McGraw-Hill, latest edition.
7. Fundamentals of Philosophy David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker, Prentice Hall, latest edition.
8. The Philosopher's Way John Chaffee, Prentice Hall, latest edition.
9. The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach William Lawhead, McGraw Hill, latest edition.
10. Philosophy a Text with Readings Manuel Velazquez, Thompson Wadsworth, latest edition.

Readings

1. Problems from Philosophy Rachels, James & Stuart, Rachels, McGraw Hill, 2nd Edition, 2009-2005
2. The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy Melchert, Norman, Oxford University Press: 2007

B. Supplemental hand-outs, video materials, etc. – to be supplied by instructor.

C. Outside reading/research as determined by instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Instructors will make use of varied pedagogical techniques, including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups, individual and/or collaborative projects, debates, research, peer response, journals, essays, conferences, computer-assisted instruction, interactive/creative methods, multi-media, and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

As determined by the instructor, course grades will be based on class and group participation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers, and/or a portfolio. The instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

Content and schedule determined by instructor.