

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY PHIL 1010

2006

Prepared by the Nebraska Transfer Initiative Task Force on
Humanities

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I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

PHIL 1010

Introduction to Philosophy

Prerequisite: Reading/writing skills at ENGL 1010 level or instructor's permission.

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 GOALS/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 student will:

1. Define 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. Appreciate the cultural diversity within societies and the global community by examining different ways of perceiving/thinking and the resulting values, beliefs, and practices.
5. Identify, define and evaluate a variety of argumentation modes recognizing assumptions, premises, or errors.
6. Apply methods of reflection, articulation, argumentation, and critical reasoning in the analysis of philosophical questions.

B. COMPETENCIES

At the end of the term, the student will be able to:

1. Define 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. Appreciate and discuss philosophy on a mature level;
5. Function with respect and appreciation in a multiphilosophical environment;
6. Critically analyze, evaluate, and synthesize philosophical works;
7. Produce oral and written analyses which demonstrate critical thinking, reflection, reading, writing;
8. Use appropriate manuscript and/or research conventions.

III. 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. Classics of Western Philosophy Seven M. Cahn, Hackett Publishing Company, latest edition.
6. Fundamentals of Philosophy David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker, Prentice Hall, latest edition.
7. The Philosopher's way John Chaffee, Prentice Hall, latest edition.
8. The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach William Lawhead, McGraw Hill, latest edition.

- B. Supplemental hand-outs, video materials, etc. – to be supplied by instructor.
- C. Outside reading/research as determined by instructor.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE (chronology may vary):

- A. Philosophical questions, processes, and perspectives
- B. Metaphysics
- C. Epistemology
- D. Ethics
- E. Philosophy of religion
- F. Logic; perception and argumentation modes
- G. The human self and freedom
- H. Justice and society
- I. Current issues in philosophy

V. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Content and schedule 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.