



PHIL 1000

Division: Humanities

Department: Philosophy

Course: PHIL 1000

Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Catalog Description:

This course is designed to help students better understand themselves and their relationship to the world they live in through readings of varying points of view relating to such questions as morality, politics, religion, and approaches to truth.

General Education Requirements: Humanities

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

This course is needed to help students see the application of philosophic thought to their lives. It is a basic element in understanding Humanities as the expression of thoughts and values that define an individual and a culture. All colleges in the state teach Introduction to Philosophy on the freshman level. The course fulfilled the Humanities GE requirement.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to explain how philosophy is done and the major issues in the areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and moral philosophy.

Students will be able to articulate and argue their beliefs in each area of philosophy.

Students will be able to demonstrate a critical, philosophical analysis of any argument in philosophy.

Content:

The following topics and selections from primary readings will be covered in the course:

A. The purpose and method of philosophy

Plato *The Apology*

B. Human Nature

Aristotle *Physics*

C. Reality

Berkeley *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

D. Philosophy of Religion

Mary Daly *Beyond God the Father*

E. Epistemology

Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy*

F. Ethics

Nietzsche *Beyond good and Evil*

G. Social Philosophy

John Rawls *A Theory of Justice*

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read a variety of philosophic arguments, discuss their understanding of the material, and offer criticism of these arguments. For example, students read Socrates' argument on the meaning of justice. In small groups they summarize the dialogue and criticize the definitions. I attend and offer critiques of their reading comprehension

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students write essay exams and out of class essays in answer to philosophic questions raised in the readings. I respond to the clarity, informativeness, and persuasiveness with grades and suggestions like "needs an example."

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

Students study ethical theory and discuss its application in a variety of situations. For example students will be required to apply natural law ethics, utilitarian ethics, and virtue ethics to the situation of drug user considering an abortion.

9) Respond with informed sensitivity to an artistic work or experience.

Students do readings in and discuss application of aesthetic theory. For example Plato's theory of art as imitation is applied to both representative art (Michelangelo's David) and non-representative art (Jackson Pollock's abstract expressionistic painting Number 1).

Key Performance Indicators:

3 essay exams: 60% of the final grade

6 short essays: 24% of the final grade

6 group discussion leadership exercises: 6% of the final grade

5 oral quizzes: 10% of the final grade

Assessment percentages are approximations and may vary by instructor.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

See Content for examples of texts.

Optimum Class Size: 20

Maximum Class Size: 35

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Philosophy Department:

Mike Kowalski, , , Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)