Course Syllabus

Department: Humanities

Date: 12/14/13

I. Course Prefix and Number: PHL 101

Course Name: Introduction to Philosophy

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: supporting data required for grade prerequisite of 'C-' or higher.

This course offers an introduction to Western Philosophy by moving sequentially through the four historical eras of Philosophy. Those eras follow: The Classical Era, the Medieval Era, the Modern Era and the Postmodern Era.

Each of these four eras uniquely embody these philosophical concerns: What is the nature of reality (cosmology or metaphysics)? What is the nature of being (ontology)? How do I come to know something, and how do I know that I know it (epistemology)? Is there a God or gods (Philosophy of Religion)? What is the best life to live, and how do I live it (ethics)? What are beauty and the utterly personal experience of pleasure and satisfaction (aesthetics)?

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:

This course fulfills a Liberal Arts or General Elective in AA, AS, and AAS degree programs.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes: State the student learning outcome(s) for the course (e.g. Student will be able to identify...)

- Students will read and analyze representative philosophical texts of the four defined eras in order to become familiar with the names and ideas of central figures from Philosophy.
- Students will write source-based essays using appropriate formats to define major themes and movements that have shaped philosophical thinking.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

- [x] writing
- [ ] oral communications
- [x] reading
- [ ] mathematics
- [x] critical thinking
- [x] computer literacy
- [x] ethics/values
- [ ] citizenship
- [ ] global concerns
- [x] information resources
### III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

*For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Students will write critical and analytical source-based essays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate representative philosophical works.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Students will compose essays demonstrating reasoned argumentation focused on central philosophical concepts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td>Students will write their work in electronic formats.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics/Values</td>
<td>Students will write papers and engage in discussions focused on the ways philosophy reflects our personal, communal, and professional values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Resources</td>
<td>Students will use library databases to assist with the research and composition of essays and presentations.</td>
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### IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

**Types of Course Materials:**

Anthologies and/or individual texts in philosophical study

**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):**

Lecture, discussion, in-class writing, group work

### V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

- Studying individual primary texts related to the philosophical concepts and movements
- Finding, reading, discussing, evaluating, and incorporating critical analyses into discussion and formal writing projects.