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Date revised: Fall 2013
Text Update: Sept. 2013
C&GE approved: November 13, 2013
Board approved: December 11, 2013

Philosophy (PHIL) 1501 Introduction to Philosophy (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Philosophy 1]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: A theoretical and practical treatment of the types and problems of philosophy is studied with particular concerns for issues confronting the modern age. Included are studies relating to the value systems found in the intellectual, religious, ethical and political areas of man's development, as well as the sources and limits of knowledge, and the nature of reality. Emphasis is placed through the course on the art and science of logic, but particularly explored in the second unit where the art of critical thinking is stressed. C-ID: PHIL 100

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text:

Melchert, Norman. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. 6th ed. New York: Oxford, 2010. Print.

Soccio, Douglas J. *Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy*. 8th ed. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2013. Print.

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student should be able to

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods,
2. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues,
3. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions, and
4. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Early Philosophy

A. The Greeks

1. Aristotle and rationalism
 2. Plato and otherworldliness
 3. Epicurus and anti-religious thought
 4. Other important thinkers
 - a. Heraclitus, Thales, Epictetus, Sextus Empiricus,
- B. The Romans
1. Cicero
 2. Marcus Aurelius
- C. The Hebrews
1. Moses Maimonides
- D. Early Christianity
1. Augustine and the problem of evil

Unit II Early Modern Philosophy

- A. The middle ages
1. Boethius, Anselm, and the problem of a Christian Philosophy
- B. The renaissance
1. Erasmus, Montaigne, and the problem of unbelief
- C. The seventeenth century
1. Descartes and the beginnings of epistemology
 2. Spinoza and the emergence of materialism
 3. Leibniz and the problem of Evil
 4. Hobbes and political philosophy

Unit III Modern Philosophy

- A. The eighteenth century
1. Voltaire, Diderot, and the French Enlightenment
 2. Kant and the question of knowledge
 3. Jefferson, Paine, and the American Enlightenment
 4. The British Empiricists
- B. The nineteenth century
1. Nietzsche and the problem of morality
 2. Introduction to Existentialism
 3. Comte and Positivism
- C. The twentieth century
1. Russell, Wittgenstein, and analytic philosophy
 2. Williams James and the psychology of belief
 3. Charles Sanders Pierce and the problem of belief

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Reading
3. Written work

Methods of Instruction:

1. Assigned readings from the text
2. Lectures and discussion
3. Audiovisual materials to illustrate the application of philosophical content to contemporary life

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
 - a. term or other papers
 - b. analytical, evaluative, and explanatory writing
2. Other examinations, including:
 - a. multiple choice
 - b. true/false items
 - c. completion
 - d. essay