



Course Name: Intro to Philosophy
Course Number: PHI-101
Course Department: Liberal Arts and Science: Humanities
Course Term: Spring 2018
Last Revised by Department: Fall 2017
Total Semester Hour(s) Credit: 3
Total Contact Hours per Semester:

Lecture: 45 Lab: Clinical: Internship/Practicum:

Catalog Description: In this course, we will read and discuss the ideas of historical and contemporary philosophers. Socrates once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Philosophy is an attempt to examine life by considering such questions as: What is knowledge? What is truth? Does beauty exist? Is freedom an illusion? Are there such things as right and wrong? How should we relate to other people? Is there a god? Understanding such questions and proposed answers to them is the nature of philosophy. Students are encouraged to read the materials and participate in discussion.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: N/A

Textbook(s) Required: Moore, Brooke Noel, & Kenneth Bruder. *Philosophy: The Power of Ideas*. 9th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 2014. ISBN: 978-0-07-803835-8

Access Code: N/A

Required Materials: This course will make use of iNet for course assignments and communication. Computer/Internet access are required. Computer labs are available on campus if you do not have a computer at home. Students should come to class prepared with the textbook, pen and paper, and any other relevant course materials. You must use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome in order to successfully submit assignments in iNet. These programs are free and the ICCC Helpdesk can assist you in downloading them if needed.

Suggested Materials: You may find the following websites useful.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – <https://plato.stanford.edu>
Guidelines on Reading Philosophy – <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>
Jonathan Bennett's Simplified Texts -- <http://www.earlymodern texts.com>

Institutional Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The ability to dissect a multitude of incoming information, sorting the pertinent from the irrelevant, in order to analyze, evaluate, synthesize, or apply the information to a defensible conclusion.

Effective Communication: Information, thoughts, feelings, attitudes, or beliefs transferred either verbally or nonverbally through a medium in which the intended meaning is clearly and correctly understood by the recipient with the expectation of feedback.

Personal Responsibility: Initiative to consistently meet or exceed stated expectations over time.

Department/Program Outcomes:

1. Students will analyze diverse perspectives in arts and humanities.
2. Students will examine cultural similarities and differences relevant to arts and humanities.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to comprehend and explain various concepts through written and verbal activities.
4. Students will analyze ways that arts and humanities impact or apply to their own lives.
5. Students will demonstrate personal accountability both in and out of the classroom.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will distinguish the major areas of philosophy and the crucial questions therein.
2. The student will analyze ethical decision-making by using a case study approach.
3. The student will analyze how philosophy and ethics affect our personal, professional, societal, and political lives.
4. The student will assess various methods of moral decision-making and justify decisions made.
5. The student will explain ethical issues both in written work and in oral work.
6. The student will evaluate and interpret opposite viewpoints with respect.
7. The student will explain the gist of the views of some historically important philosophers and the main ideas underlying some major philosophical movements and positions.

Unit Objectives:

*Origins and Basics of Philosophy

- Philosophical questions
- Divisions of philosophy
- Key terms and concepts
- Pre-Socratics and Socrates

*Moral & Political Philosophy

- Plato and Aristotle's Ethics
- Epicurus and the Stoics
- Christian Ethics
- Kant
- Utilitarianism
- Plato and Aristotle's Politics
- Natural Law and Hobbes
- Social Contract and Constitutional Theory
- Liberalism and Marxism
- Rawls's Egalitarianism

- Nozick's Libertarianism
- *Metaphysics & Epistemology
 - Plato's Idealism
 - Aristotle's Empiricism
 - Descartes
 - Spinoza and Leibniz
 - Locke and Berkeley
 - Hume
 - Kant
 - The Continental Tradition and Existentialism
 - The Analytic Tradition and Logical Positivism
 - Free Will and Determinism
- *Philosophy of Religion
 - Anselm and Aquinas
 - Religious perspectives of Descartes and Leibniz
 - Hume and Kant
 - 20th Century views of religion

College Procedures: All college-wide procedures are located in the Iowa Central Community College Student Handbook.

Assessment:

- Short written assignments (four total) – 40%
- Quizzes – 10%
- Class attendance/discussion participation – 5%
- Midterm – 20%
- Final Exam – 25%

Please note that assessments are subject to change.

Non-discrimination Statement:

It is the policy of Iowa Central Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (employment), sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code §§ 216.6 and 216.9, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (34 CFR Part 110), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.).

If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact Kim Whitmore, Director of Human Resources, phone number 515-574-1138, whitmore@iowacentral.edu; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312-730-1560, fax 312-730-1576.

Disability/Accommodation Services:

If you have a request for an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is Iowa Central's policy that you contact the Academic Assistance & Accommodations Coordinator to discuss your specific needs and to provide supporting information and documentation, so we may determine appropriate accommodations. The office for accommodations is located in the Academic Resource Center, and it can be reached by calling 515-574-1045. For online information about accommodations, please go to www.iowacentral.edu/accommodations.

Bias-Free Classroom Statement:

Introduction to Philosophy maintains high standards of respect in regard to individual beliefs and values when selecting classroom materials including textbooks, project activities, power points, videos, presentations, and classroom discussions.

It is our belief that all people have the right to obtain an education within our department/program courses free of bias, with full respect demonstrated to all who enroll in the courses of this department/program.

Schedule of Readings and Activities: (all page numbers refer to the textbook)

PHILOSOPHICAL PRELUDE

Jan. 17 – Introduction to the Course
“What is philosophy anyway?”
Reading: none (optional pp. 1-15)

Jan. 22 – The Pre-Socratics, Philosophy of the Heavens
“What kind of world do we live in?”
Reading: pp. 18-30, excerpts from Pre-Socratic philosophers [in-class handout]

Jan. 24 – Socrates, Philosophy in the Town Square
“What’s the right way to live in the world?”
Reading: pp. 32-35, excerpt from Plato’s “The Apology”, pp. 43-46

Jan. 26 – FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE (submit online)

PART ONE – VALUE

Ethics – How should we live?

Jan. 29 – Plato and Aristotle on the Highest Good
“What is the highest good for human beings?”
Reading: pp. 239-246, excerpt from Aristotle’s “Nicomachean Ethics”, pp. 272-3

Jan. 31 – Epicurus and the Stoics on Pleasure and Virtue
“What’s the right way to live in accordance with (human) nature?”

Reading: pp. 247-250, excerpt from Epictetus' *Handbook*, pp. 274-277

Feb. 5 – Christian Ethics: Augustine and Aquinas
“Can you combine ancient Greek ethics with Christian morality?”
Reading: pp. 250-257

Feb. 7 – Kant's Ethics of Duty
“What does it mean to treat others with dignity?”
Reading: pp. 261-264, excerpt from *Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 277-279

Feb. 12 – Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill
“Shouldn't we try to do as much good as possible?”
Reading: pp. 264-268, excerpt from Mill's *Utilitarianism*, pp. 279-281

Feb. 13 – SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE (submit online)

Politics – How should society be organized?

Feb. 14 – Plato and Aristotle on Living Well in the City
“What makes a society good?”
Reading: pp. 287-290, excerpt from Plato's *Crito*, pp. 319-321

Feb. 19 – Natural Law Theory and Thomas Hobbes
“Is there such a thing as natural law and what does it mean for politics?”
Reading: pp. 291-296, excerpt from Hobbes' *Leviathan*, pp. 326-328

Feb. 21 – Social Contract Theory: Locke and Rousseau
“What makes a political order legitimate?”
Reading: pp. 296-306

Feb. 26 – Liberalism and Marxism: Smith, Mill, Hegel, and Marx
“Are liberty and equality compatible?”
Reading: pp. 307-318, excerpt from Mill's *On Liberty*, pp. 329-332

Feb. 28 – Rawls's Theory of Justice
“What would a just society look like if it were chosen behind a veil of ignorance?”
Reading: pp. 340-345, excerpt from *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 366-367

Mar. 5 – Responses to Rawls: Nozick's Libertarianism and MacIntyre's
Communitarianism
“Yeah, but what about liberty and community?”
Reading: pp. 345-352, excerpt from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 367-368

Mar. 7 – MIDTERM

Mar. 12-16 – SPRING BREAK

PART TWO – BEING

Metaphysics and Epistemology – What exists and how can we know it?

Mar. 19 – Plato’s Epistemology

“Are there eternal truths? How could we know?”

Reading: pp. 35-41, excerpt from *The Republic*, pp. 46-53

Mar. 21 – Aristotle’s Metaphysics

“What is there?”

Reading: pp. 60-67, excerpt from *The Metaphysics*, pp. 68-69

Mar. 26 – Descartes on Clear and Distinct Ideas

“Is there anything beyond doubting?”

Reading: pp. 92-102, excerpt from *The Meditations*, pp. 116-118

QUIZ 4 on March 19 + 21

Mar. 28 – The Rationalism of Conway, Spinoza, and Leibniz

“How much can we know through reason?”

Reading: pp. 103-109

Apr. 2 – The Empiricism of Locke and Berkeley

“What can we know through the senses?”

Reading: pp. 109-115, excerpt from Berkeley’s *Three Dialogues* [distributed electronically]

QUIZ 5 on March 26 + 28

Apr. 4 – 18th Century: Hume and Kant

“Can we be absolutely sure the sun will rise tomorrow? And can we know things in themselves?”

Reading: pp. 124-133, excerpt from Hume’s *Enquiry*, pp. 138-139

Apr. 6 – THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE (submit online)

Apr. 9 – The Continental Tradition and Existentialism

“What does it mean to say that existence precedes essence?”

Reading: pp. 145-151, 159-163 (optional), excerpt from Sartre’s “Existentialism is a Humanism”, pp. 179-182

QUIZ 6 on April 2 + 4

Apr. 11 – The Analytic Tradition and Logical Positivism

“What is analysis?”

Reading: pp. 194-199, excerpt from Ayer’s *Language, Truth, and Logic*, pp. 222-224

Apr. 16 – Free Will

“Given that the universe seems to be deterministic, how is free will possible?”

Reading: pp. 547-552

QUIZ 7 on April 9 + 11

Apr. 18 – Free Will cont.

“Is free will an illusion?”

Reading: excerpt from Sam Harris, pp. 575-577

Apr. 20 – FOURTH ASSIGNMENT DUE (submit online)

Philosophy of Religion – What is the nature of god, if there is one?

Apr. 23 – Christian Arguments for God’s Existence

“Does God exist?”

Reading: pp. 374-382, excerpts from Anselm and Aquinas, pp. 409-411

QUIZ 8 on April 16 + 18

Apr. 25 – Modern Arguments for God’s Existence

“Are we certain that God exists?”

Reading: pp. 385-390, excerpt from Leibniz’s *Monadology*, pp. 411-412

Apr. 30 – Hume and Kant on Arguments for God’s Existence

“How good are the classical arguments for God’s existence?”

Reading: pp. 390-397, excerpt from Hume’s *Dialogues* [distributed electronically]

QUIZ 9 on April 23 + 25

May 2 – Twentieth Century Perspectives on Religion

“Are reason and faith compatible?”

Reading: pp. 402-409, excerpt from Dawkins’ *The God Delusion*, pp. 415-419

QUIZ 10 on April 30

May 7 – FINAL EXAM