Course Overview

COURSE TITLE:

PHI 111, Introduction to Philosophy

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduces significant theoretical and practical questions and emphasizes understanding the meaning and methods of philosophy. Includes: the human condition, logic, reality, knowledge, freedom, history, ethics, and religion. Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways Course Statement: The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved PHI 111 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-AH3 category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C- grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. GT-AH3

GT PATHWAYS:

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved HUM121 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-AH2 category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C- grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to the CDHE GT Pathways Information.

This course is one of the Statewide Guaranteed Transfer courses.

- PHI111 GT-Pathways Required Syllabus

CREDIT HOURS:

3

PREREQUISITES:

College-level English reading and writing skills.
The CCCOnline Course Policies page contains information about the student's role in the classroom, grading policies, and rights and responsibilities.
COURSE MATERIALS

Your textbook is available online as an eText. You do not need to purchase any additional materials. For specific information on refund policies and the optional black and white textbook available for purchase, please contact the CCCOnline bookstore (link opens in new window).

REQUIRED TEXT:


TEXTBOOK WEBSITE:

http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0078038340/information_center_view0/index.html

DIGITAL MATERIALS ACCESS AND SETUP

This course uses Vital Source which integrates the eText directly into the course site.

- Visit the Vital Source Course Start page for details on first access of the materials.

To make sure your computer is set up correctly to access the eText and other digital content, review the Vital Source Technical Support page, also linked in the Student Support Module.

COURSE RESOURCES

Course and Textbook Resources

The Philosophical Journey Textbook website This link provides further links online to other resources from the publisher's website.

Other Resources (Note: All links open in a new window)

A Dictionary of Philosophical Terms and Names Helpful dictionary for brief biographies of philosophers and definitions of key concepts; also includes links to timeline, study guide, etc.; maintained by Garth Kemerling

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy Excellent encyclopedia with articles on a wide range of philosophical topics
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Another fine, slightly more specialized philosophical encyclopedia

Guide to Philosophy on the Internet Collection of numerous briefly annotated alphabetized links to philosophers, topics, associations, journals, e-texts, etc.; maintained by Peter Suber (Earlham College)

General Information and Resources

CCCOnline.org: This is the main website for CCCOnline. Here you will find the student handbook, important dates, registration information and technical assistance. URL: http://www.ccconline.org/

Note: See your My Home page for links to the following resources

- Online Library
- Research & Writing Toolkit
- NetTutor Web-based Tutoring Service
- CCCOnline Online Bookstore available 24/7
COURSE COMPETENCIES AND OUTCOMES

STUDENT COMPETENCIES:
The competencies you will demonstrate in this course are as follows:

1. Distinguish and critically evaluate the major schools of philosophy.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of philosophical thinking.
3. Critically evaluate primary philosophical sources.
4. Apply philosophical theories to current issues.
5. Demonstrate philosophical/logical thinking through writing and other forms of assessment.

REQUIRED TOPICAL OUTLINE

I. What is Philosophy?
   a. Definition
   b. Branches of Philosophy
   c. Applications of Philosophy
II. Logic
   a. The Major Theories and Issues of Logic
III. Epistemology
   a. The Major Theories and Issues of epistemology
IV. Metaphysics
   a. The Major Theories and Issues of metaphysics
V. Ethics
   a. The Major Theories and Issues of Ethics

The module outcomes that will permit you to demonstrate course competencies are:

MODULE 1

Outcomes

1. Identify and describe the main subfields of philosophy.
2. Identify, explain and analyze the life, character, and teaching method of Socrates.
3. Identify, explain and analyze Plato’s allegory of the cave.
4. Identify and analyze the principles of logic, identifying common fallacies.
Module 2

Outcomes

1. Identify and describe the sub-fields of metaphysics.
2. Identify, explain and evaluate Dualism, Physicalism and Functionalism.
3. Identify, explain and analyze the Strong AI thesis.

Module 3

Outcomes

1. Identify, analyze and evaluate libertarianism, hard determinism and compatibilism.
2. Identify, explain and analyze concept of moral responsibility.
3. Compare and contrast circumstantial and metaphysical freedom.

Module 4

Outcomes

1. Identify, explain and evaluate Epistemological Skepticism.
2. Identify, explain and evaluate rationalism and empiricism.
3. Identify, explain and evaluate Kantian constructivism.
4. Identify, explain and evaluate Epistemological Relativism.

Module 5

Outcomes

1. Compare and contrast evidentialism and nonevidentialism.
2. Identify, explain and critique several arguments for God's existence.
3. Explain and evaluate the problem of evil and several theodicies.
MODULE 6

Outcomes

1. Compare, contrast and evaluate Moral Relativism and Ethical Objectivism.
2. Identify, explain and evaluate consequentialist ethical theories.
3. Identify, explain and evaluate Kant’s deontological ethics.
4. Compare and contrast select perspectives on the meaning of life
**Grading & Participation**

**Methods:**

Evaluation includes a combination of discussion participation, assignments, and other evaluation. Rubrics will be provided for Assignments and Discussions.

**Grading Policies:**

Mark all Module due dates on your calendar for this class. You may submit assignments AHEAD of schedule. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval.

**Summary of Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussions (6 @ 20 points each)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Assignments (4 @ 50 points each)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (6 @ 15 points each)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Writing Assignment (1 @ 30 points)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (1 @ 80 points)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

A = 90 to 100%  B = 80 to 89%  C = 70 to 79%  D = 60 to 69%  F = 59% and below

**Discussions**

Our "virtual classroom" will be our online discussion forums. Each of six Modules will have its own discussion session, which will open on the first day of that Module and subsequently close on its last day. (See the Course Schedule for the dates of each Module). Early and continuing participation throughout each Module's class discussions is expected.

Two specific discussion questions will be provided at the outset, in order to launch the discussions at the beginning of each Module. It is expected that you participate in BOTH of the discussion threads that subsequently develop from those two initial discussion questions.

There will be six discussion sessions, one for each Module. Participation in each discussion session is worth up to 50 points.
**Essays**

During Modules 2-5, it will be required that you write and submit a thoughtful essay of approximately 1000-1500 words. These essays must be in direct response to a specific assigned essay question, which I have provided within each module. Each Module’s assigned essay question is drawn directly from that Module’s assigned textbook reading.

Your essays should provide a relevant, thorough, and detailed response to the specific essay question assigned, drawing directly upon our textbook readings in order to carefully craft your response. Each essay must be written and submitted before the end of its respective module. (See the Course Schedule for Module dates and associated essay deadlines.)

There will be four essays assignments. Each essay is worth up to 50 points.

**Late Work**: Late essays may be submitted for up to two weeks after their due dates, but a late penalty will be applied. The penalty for submitting late work is 5% off for each day after the assignment is due.

Late essays must be submitted to the relevant assignment folder, and may not be submitted via email. Note that late essays may not be graded until the end of the semester. Note also that no late essays will be accepted during the final week of the course, or after the course has closed, without exception.

**Emergencies**: In the rare event that you cannot submit a particular assignment due to a true emergency (e.g., a serious medical problem), please contact me in advance of the assignment deadline, so that we can discuss strategies for completing the assignment. Please be prepared to provide concrete documentation of your situation, and please note that emergencies are considered only when they are conveyed to me in advance of the assignment being due.

**Quizzes**

The purpose of the quizzes is to assess your reading comprehension of the assigned textbook chapters for each Module. These quizzes consist of 15 multiple-choice questions and are worth a total of 15 points. Quiz questions are drawn directly from the assigned reading. The quizzes are "open book," so you are welcome to refer to your textbook in answering the quiz questions. Once the quiz has been opened and started, it cannot be paused or stopped. You must complete and submit it within a 120-minute time limit (no later 120 minutes after starting it). Quizzes are DUE before the end of each Module.
COURSE SCHEDULE

The Schedule is subject to change as needed.

This page summarizes all of the graded assignments, exams, and reading assignments for the course. If you want, you can print it out and post it somewhere handy.

All assignments are described in detail on the Module assignment pages. If you have questions check there and/or send me an e-mail.

This course is not self-paced and is not open-exit. All assignments, papers, quizzes, discussions, etc., are to be completed by no later than midnight of the due date.

NOTE: Important CCCOnline semester dates (e.g., drop/withdraw/term end) appear on the CCCOnline calendar.

MODULE 1

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 1, Appendix and Module 1 Lecture
Complete Thesis Assignment and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

Due Dates

MODULE 2

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 2: 2.0-2.4 and Module 2 Lecture
Complete Essay and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

Due Dates

MODULE 3

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 2: 2.5-2.8 and Module 3 Lecture
Complete Essay and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

Due Dates

MODULE 4

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 3: 3.0-3.5 and Module 4 Lecture
Complete Essay and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

Due Dates
MODULE 5

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 4: 4.0-4.2, 4.4-4.5 and Module 5 Lecture
Complete Essay and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

MODULE 6

Reading/Assignments/Exams
Read Chapter 5: 5.0-5.2, 5.3-5.4, Chapter 7 and Module 5 Lecture
Complete Final Exam and Quiz
Participate in class discussion forum by reading & contributing timely discussion posts.

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