Date: October 16, 2013

ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Prefix and Number</td>
<td>PHIL 1103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Caryl Gibbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours Per Week: Class</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
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Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

This course investigates the nature of humanity, our understanding of the world, and the ways in which we make ethical decisions. The course will include a general introduction to major areas of philosophical studies, including, but not limited to, metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology. The major emphasis will be on Western philosophy; however, other traditions will be introduced. This course may be taken as Humanities credit for General Education requirements. Prerequisite: READ 1213 or equivalent.

Prerequisites

READ 1213 or Equivalent

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<tr>
<th>Text(s):</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy: A Text With Readings, 12th ed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Manuel Velasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Cengage Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright Date</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>978-133-93342-7</td>
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<td>Reading Level</td>
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Supplemental Materials:

(Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
A variety of online reference materials
Films relevant to philosophical issues
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale:

Each generation of human life on this earth, and each of its individual members, has had to find for itself a meaningful and workable philosophy of life. It is the moral obligation of each society that has advanced to the point of being able to satisfy the basic needs of its citizens to provide an educational environment in which all people are free to investigate the past and present insights into the nature of reality and their place in it.

An introductory course in philosophy serves the practical needs of students in numerous areas, particularly in learning how to analyze and evaluate ideas, think clearly, and understand the needs of others. The prospective philosophy major must have a basic introductory course. For the prospective major in a related field, Introduction to Philosophy may serve as partial fulfillment of the general education requirement for humanities.

Expected Outcomes:

The student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to use the basic critical thinking and logic skills of philosophy to construct a more meaningful worldview, or philosophy of life.

2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the principal areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology, including but not limited to philosophical concerns such as concepts of self, including free will and determinism; ethics; aesthetics; social and political philosophy, and philosophy of religion.

3. Explore and evaluate the principal ideas of the major philosophers and the philosophical movements of which they are a part.

Methods of Instruction:

Formal Lecture
Lecture and Discussion
Internet or Computer Based Instruction
Inquiry Approach
Films relevant to Philosophical issues
Individualized Approach: There is a serious effort made to understand the intellectual level of each student as he/she enters the class, and an attempt is made to develop this level.

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):

Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the course content, as identified in the learning goals, on written examinations, oral presentations or projects. The grades of the students will be assigned based on a predetermined scale.

Suggested:
30% Written responses to primary philosophical texts
30%  Written responses examining specific problems in philosophy
20%  Quizzes demonstrating familiarity and comprehension of philosophers, concepts, and other significant course material
20%  Final synthesis of material learned in the course and students’ own worldview clearly demonstrating strong critical thinking and the ability to use logic.

Learning Objectives:

To broaden the perspective of the participant, an introduction to philosophy must relate philosophic problems to the concrete reality of the world of today. The perennial philosophic issues (the nature of humanity, our understanding of the world in which we live, the status of value judgments) will be discussed in historical context and in their living form as issues in the lives of all of us in the world today.

RECOMMENDED UNITS:

1. Introduction and overview of philosophy. (Outcomes 1 and 2)
   A. Suggested Topics:
      i. Introduce the branches of philosophy in order to answer the question: What is philosophy?
      ii. Consider the value of philosophy, both in the academy and in everyday life.
      iii. Introduce the thinking and reasoning skills that underlie philosophical inquiry methods.
   B. Learning Activities:
      i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
      ii. Students will complete analytical writing using an inquiry approach to articulate their comprehension of the material and offering a thoughtful response to the issues addressed.
      iii. Students will complete examinations testing their knowledge and comprehension of the materials presented.

2. Metaphysics and Theories of Self (Outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
   A. Suggested Topics
      i. Rationalism and the Traditional Western View of Human Nature, including, but not limited to, the ideas of the early Greeks (including the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), as well as proponents of the Traditional Western View (including Augustine and Thomas Aquinas).
      ii. The Mind-Body Problem, including Dualism/Monism, Identity Theory, and prominent views of Human Nature (e.g. Behaviorism, Functionalism, et al.).
   B. Learning Activities:
      i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
      ii. Students will complete analytical writing using an inquiry approach to articulate their comprehension of the material and offering a thoughtful response to the issues addressed.
iii. Students will complete quizzes or examinations testing their knowledge and comprehension of the materials presented.

3. Theories of Reality and Ontology (Outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
   A. Suggested Topics
      i. Historical Developments in Continental and Analytical Philosophy, including, but not limited to, Materialism/Idealism, Logical Positivism, Antirealism, Phenomenology, and Existentialism.
      ii. Pragmatism, including, but not limited to, the ideas of William James, John Dewey, and C. S. Peirce.
      iii. Theories about freedom, including, but not limited to Libertarianism, Determinism, and Compatibilism.
      iv. An introduction to the philosophical study of God, including, but not limited to arguments for and against the existence of God (e.g. the Ontological Argument, the Cosmological Argument, and the Argument from Design), Questions about the Problem of Evil (Theodicy), and Nontraditional Religious Experience.

   B. Learning Activities:
      i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
      ii. Students will complete analytical writing using an inquiry approach to articulate their comprehension of the material and offering a thoughtful response to the issues addressed.
      iii. Students will complete examinations testing their knowledge and comprehension of the materials presented.

4. Epistemology (Outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
   A. Suggested Topics
      i. An introduction to the Problem of Knowledge, including, but not limited to, Empiricism, Rationalism, Subjectivism, Kantian Constructivism, and Scientific Reasoning.
      ii. An investigation into the problem of Truth, including various theories of Truth (e.g. Correspondence, Coherence, and Pragmatic Theories of Truth).

   B. Learning Activities:
      i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
      ii. Students will complete analytical writing using an inquiry approach to articulate their comprehension of the material and offering a thoughtful response to the issues addressed.
      iii. Students will complete examinations testing their knowledge and comprehension of the materials presented.

5. Axiology (Outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
   A. Suggested Topics
      i. Ethics, including, but not limited to Consequentialism, Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism, Divine Command Theory, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics. This unit should include discussions that relate common issues in the study of Ethics to everyday problems.
      ii. Social and Political Philosophy, including, but not limited to, justifications for and limits on the State, Natural Law, the Social Contract, and questions about Justice.
iii. An introduction to the philosophical sub-branches of Aesthetics and Heuristics.

B. Learning Activities:
   i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
   ii. Students will complete analytical writing using an inquiry approach to articulate their comprehension of the material and offering a thoughtful response to the issues addressed.
   iii. Students will complete examinations testing their knowledge and comprehension of the materials presented.

6. Conclusions and Synthesis of Ideas (Outcomes 1 and 2)
   A. Suggested Topics
      i. The conclusion of the course should include a discussion of the meaning of life allowing students to synthesize a more fully realized worldview by applying the things they have learned in the course to something that relates to them more directly.
   B. Learning Activities
      i. Students will participate in classroom discussions and lectures on the topics specific to this unit.
      ii. Students will conduct research into a contemporary philosophical problem, contemporary philosopher, or similar, and apply the concepts, theories, and ideas learned in order to synthesize a more fully realized worldview