ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

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<th>Division</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Philosophy Capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Antoinette Castillo</td>
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<td>Hours Per Week: Class</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>0</td>
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Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
The Philosophy Capstone course evaluates and strengthens the critical reasoning skills and understanding of philosophical theory in students seeking an associate’s degree in philosophy or intending to transfer to a four-year philosophy program. This is a required course for students graduating with a Liberal Studies Associate in Arts - Philosophy Option degree.
Prerequisite: completion of at least nine hours of program requirements in Philosophy.

Prerequisites
Completion of at least nine hours of program requirements in English.

Text(s):
Title
Author
Publisher
Copyright Date
ISBN #
Reading Level

Supplemental Materials: (Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: The Philosophy Capstone course is designed to enable students to make a successful transition from the study of philosophy in a two-year institution to a four-year philosophy program, or to prepare students to pursue further education in the areas of law, ministry, or eventual admission to any graduate program requiring strong background in critical thinking and the history of ideas.

Expected Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to do the following:
1. Employ rational thought to construct logical, insightful, clear, and effective arguments.
2. Analyze and critically evaluate the complex discourse of others.
3. Use knowledge of philosophical theories to explore contemporary problems in areas such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, social and political theory, and religion.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the history of ideas and intellectual movements in Western culture and how those ideas fit into a larger global framework of philosophical movements.
5. Use the critical thinking and logic skills of philosophy to more openly explore the worldviews of others in order to construct a more meaningful worldview for oneself.

Methods of Instruction: Lecture, small group discussion, individual conferences with professor.

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements): The student will receive a letter grade based on the Capstone Committee’s evaluation of the student’s portfolio of writing samples from required philosophy courses, oral presentations of his or her work, and quality of assigned analysis papers in each of the three major areas of philosophy. Merit will also be determined by the individual student’s commitment to academic growth and attention to detail.

Learning Goals:

Unit 1 (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) - Students will submit a portfolio of writing samples from previous philosophy classes to the Philosophy Capstone Committee. This portfolio will be evaluated for individual strengths and weaknesses in the student’s overall critical thinking and writing skills, as well as the level of understanding of philosophical thought demonstrated in them. Submission will be followed by a meeting of the Capstone Committee and all students enrolled in the course. During this meeting, there will be a general orientation, and the committee members will provide each student with suggestions for individual reading and study over the course of the semester. Students will also be assigned a particular member of the committee as mentoring instructor for each of the three areas of study to be completed during the semester.

Unit 2 (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) - Students will meet with their assigned mentoring professor for this unit at least every other week to develop an area of inquiry in metaphysics, pursue that inquiry through reading, and ultimately compose a three-to-five page philosophical paper reflecting their findings. Afterward, all Philosophy Capstone students and committee members will meet together for student presentations of their work and brief lectures by faculty.

Unit 3 (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) - Students will meet with their assigned mentoring professor for this unit at least every other week to develop an area of inquiry in epistemology, pursue that
inquiry through reading, and ultimately compose a three-to-five page philosophical paper reflecting their findings. Afterward, all Philosophy Capstone students and committee members will meet together for student presentations of their work and brief lectures by faculty.

Unit 4 (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) - Students will meet with their assigned mentoring professor for this unit at least every other week to develop an area of inquiry in axiology, pursue that inquiry through reading, and ultimately compose a three-to-five page philosophical paper reflecting their findings. Afterward, all Philosophy Capstone students and committee members will meet together for student presentations of their work and brief lectures by faculty.

Unit 5 (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) - Students will submit a revised philosophy portfolio, consisting of the papers completed during the Capstone semester for evaluation by the Capstone Committee.