ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

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<th>Humanities</th>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Philosophy Capstone</td>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Guy Crain</td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Hours Per Week:</td>
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Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

Philosophy Capstone evaluates the philosophical prowess of students seeking an associate’s degree in philosophy. Capstone is especially designed to provide adequate preparation for studying philosophy at a four-year institution. This course is required for students graduating with a Liberal Studies (Philosophy Emphasis) degree.

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 9 hours in philosophy or permission of professor.

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Text(s):

Title: All Required Materials Provided Electronically

Author

Publisher

Copyright Date

ISBN #

Reading Level

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

Rationale:

Studying philosophy at a four-year institution involves being exposed to features distinctive to the discipline. One important distinctive feature is philosophical jargon. Philosophical jargon is crucial to the discipline, and it is used freely and frequently in many upper division courses. Yet there is no standard course dedicated to introducing jargon to novices. Another important distinctive feature is philosophical writing. Philosophical writing includes features that are unwelcome in other disciplines, and some features of writing in other disciplines are frowned upon in philosophy. Encountering these features early and in an organized manner enables students to be well-prepared for upper division studies in philosophy. Even in the case of students who do not intend to pursue careers in the academic discipline of philosophy, these quirks of the discipline lay significant groundwork for critical reasoning skills and written communication. Upper division work also requires students to follow and analyze lengthy, complex arguments made by philosophers generally in the form of books or primary texts; associate's level students should practice this skill using a work of their choosing from a pre-approved list. Lastly, success in upper division philosophy studies requires a broad familiarity with philosophy's sub-fields. Associate's level students should be required to demonstrate general philosophical competency before they engage in upper division studies.

Expected Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define terms of philosophical jargon.
2. Employ terms of philosophical jargon in the analysis of philosophical concepts, positions, and arguments.
3. Employ a variety of writing techniques relevant to producing written philosophical work.
4. Demonstrate generally improved written communication.
5. Distinguish between the sub-fields of philosophy.
6. Explain relevant issues in the major sub-fields of philosophy.
7. Identify philosophers who work in each of the sub-fields of philosophy.
8. Analyze lengthy, complex arguments from primary texts in philosophy.

Methods of Instruction:

Conferences
Discussion
Internet/Computer-based Instruction

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):

Students will be required to demonstrate their proficiency in course material by way of vocabulary work, writing assignments, and discussions during conferences.

Learning Objectives:
Suggested units:

UNIT 1: Vocabulary (Outcomes 1 & 2)

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Define and memorize at least 20 terms of philosophical jargon.
2. Create examples that employ at least 20 terms of philosophical jargon accurately.

UNIT 2: Philosophical Writing (Outcomes 3 & 4)

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Employ techniques appropriate to philosophical writing for lengthening and editing a paper.
2. Compose theses appropriate for philosophical papers.
3. Employ at least three different argument strategies in written works.
4. Summarize secondary sources accurately.

UNIT 3: Sub-field Familiarity (Outcomes 5 & 6)

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Identify at least two major issues in the field of metaphysics and identify philosophers who have written on that issue.
2. Explain the positions and arguments of each philosopher identified in (1).
3. Identify at least two major issues in the field of epistemology and identify philosophers who have written on that issue.
4. Explain the positions and arguments of each philosopher identified in (3).
5. Identify at least two major issues in the field of ethics and identify philosophers who have written on that issue.
6. Explain the positions and arguments of each philosopher identified in (5).

UNIT 4: Primary Text Analysis (Outcome 8)

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:

1. Summarize a lengthy, complex argument presented by a philosopher in a book or primary text.
2. Explain how various parts of a lengthy, complex argument function to support a philosopher's overall thesis or objective.
3. Evaluate the merits of a philosopher's argument strategy and overall thesis or objective.