ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 1103
Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy
Division: Humanities
Semester and Year Submitted: Spring 2017
Credit Hours: 3
Prepared by: Guy Crain
Hours Per Week: Class 3, Lab 0
Prerequisites: ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

This course investigates issues in philosophy such as free will, personal identity, the relation between knowledge, evidence, and belief, the nature of right and wrong, and the nature of justice or political authority. Major emphasis is placed on Western philosophy, but other traditions are considered. This course may be taken as Humanities credit for General Education requirements. Prerequisite: ENGL 1113 or concurrent enrollment.

Text(s):
Title: All course materials are provided electronically
Author
Publisher
Copyright Date
ISBN #
Reading Level
Supplemental Materials:
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale:

Critical reasoning skills, problem solving skills, oral and written communication skills, and the ability to recognize and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of positions other than one’s own are invaluable to any practical or vocational skill set. Further, many significant decisions in life involve complicated issues, interests, and arguments. Students well equipped in both areas are valuable professionally, socially, personally, and politically. A thorough introduction to issues in philosophy is an excellent way to inculcate these very skills.

Expected Outcomes:

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

1. Define important terms relating to issues in philosophy.
2. Recognize fine distinctions between philosophical concepts.
3. Recognize examples of philosophical positions and arguments in common language.
4. Explain the relevance of specific cases or dilemmas to issues in philosophy.
5. Formulate objections to arguments favoring philosophical positions.
6. Formulate defenses of philosophical positions.
7. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of defenses and objections to philosophical positions.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture
Discussion
Internet or Computer Based Instruction

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):

Students will be required to demonstrate course content proficiency by way of homework assignments, examinations, discussion participations, in-class assignments, group projects, presentations, or application projects.

Suggested:

30% Reading Quizzes
Learning Objectives:

Suggested Units:

UNIT 1: METAPHYSICS (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
Students will be introduced to issues in metaphysics including but not limited to free will, personal identity, and the mind/body problem.

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

1. Define at least 10 important terms relating to issues in metaphysics.
2. Recognize at least 3 examples of metaphysical positions and arguments in common language.
3. Explain the relevance of at least 3 specific cases or dilemmas to issues in metaphysics.
4. Formulate at least 3 objections to arguments favoring metaphysical positions.
5. Formulate defenses of at least 2 metaphysical positions.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of defenses and objections to at least 3 metaphysical positions.

UNIT 2: EPISTEMOLOGY (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
Students will be introduced to issues in epistemology including but not limited to the analysis of knowledge, skepticism, and the ethics of belief.

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

1. Define at least 10 important terms relating to issues in epistemology.
2. Recognize at least 3 examples of epistemological positions and arguments in common language.
3. Explain the relevance of at least 3 specific cases or dilemmas to issues in epistemology.
4. Formulate at least 3 objections to arguments favoring epistemological positions.
5. Formulate defenses of at least 2 epistemological positions.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of defenses and objections to at least 3 epistemological positions.

UNIT 3: ETHICS (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7)
Students will be introduced to issues in ethics including but not limited to consequentialism vs. deontology, conceptions of justice or the legitimacy of political power, and the meaning of life.

By the end of this unit, students will be expected to:
1. Define at least 10 important terms relating to issues in ethics.
2. Recognize at least 3 examples of ethical positions and arguments in common language.
3. Explain the relevance of at least 3 specific cases or dilemmas to issues in ethics.
4. Formulate at least 3 objections to arguments favoring ethical positions.
5. Formulate defenses of at least 2 ethical positions.
6. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of defenses and objections to at least 3 ethical positions.