

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	12/2019
COURSE TITLE	Introduction to Philosophy
COURSE NUMBER	PHIL 0103
DIVISION	Arts, Communications, and Humanities
DEPARTMENT	PHIL 0103
CIP CODE	24.0101
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3 Lab: X Clinical: X
PREREQUISITES	None

COURSE PLACEMENT Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at:
<https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed to introduce students to the contributions made by major thinkers on central questions concerning humanity and the multicultural human condition, this philosophy course focuses on the nature of human experience, knowledge, and social existence. Application of significant philosophical ideas to contemporary human issues are stressed.

KANSAS SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER: PHL1010

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

This course is part of a program aligned through the Kansas Board of Regents and Technical Education Authority. For more information, please visit:
https://kansasregents.org/workforce_development/program-alignment

General Education Learning Outcome

- ☐ Basic Skills for Communication
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☒ Humanities
- ☐ Natural and Physical Sciences
- ☐ Social and Behavioral Sciences

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- ☒ Communication
- ☐ Computation and Financial Literacy
- ☒ Critical Reasoning
- ☐ Technology and Information Literacy
- ☒ Community and Civic Responsibility
- ☐ Personal and Interpersonal Skills

TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbookstore.com/>

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. What is Philosophy?
 - A. The Love of Wisdom
 - B. Enduring and Perplexing Questions
 - C. Major Subject Areas
 - D. The Use of Reason
- II. A Little Bit of Logic
 - A. Deductive and Inductive Reasoning
 - B. Abductive Reasoning
 - C. Applications
- III. The Beginnings of Philosophy: The Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle
 - A. Sophistry: A New Profession
 - B. The Philosophy of Plato: Knowledge and Reality
 - C. The Philosophy of Aristotle: Philosophical Realism

- IV. Philosophy of Religion
 - A. The Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God
 - B. The Teleological Argument for the Existence of God
 - C. The Ontological Argument for the Existence of God
 - D. The Argument from Religious Experience
 - E. The Problem of Evil
 - F. Faith and Reason
- V. The Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)
 - A. What Can We Know?
 - B. Skepticism
 - C. Empiricism
 - D. Rationalism
 - E. Perception: Our Knowledge of the External World
 - F. Truth, Rationality, and Cognitive Relativism
 - G. Transcendental Idealism
- VII. Metaphysics: Philosophy of Mind
 - A. The Mind-Body Problem
 - B. Dualism
 - C. Materialism
 - D. Functionalism
 - E. Personal Identity and Immortality
- VIII. Free Will and Determinism
 - A. Determinism
 - B. Libertarianism
 - C. Compatibilism
- IX. Ethics
 - A. What is Ethics?
 - B. Ethical Relativism
 - C. Egoism
 - D. Utilitarianism
 - E. Kantian Deontological Ethics
 - F. Social/Political Justice

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Recognize the significance of philosophy in a broader cultural and historical context.

- a. Students will show familiarity with the development of various philosophical tradition during some of their major periods.
 - b. Students will recognize key characteristics of philosophical inquiry such as its emphasis on careful reasoning and analysis and how it differs from other kinds of inquiry.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of basic philosophical theories, terminology and concepts.
 - a. Students will show familiarity with a least one of the major division of Philosophy as determined by the individual instructor. Examples might include Epistemology, Metaphysics and Ethics.
 - b. Students will be able to explain key philosophical terms within historical periods (examples might include the Ancient Greeks, Romans, or Modern Philosophy), schools of thought (examples might include rationalism, empiricism, and existentialism), or problems in philosophy (examples might include the existence of God, the free will/determinism question, etc.).
 - c. Students will demonstrate understanding of major philosophical theories within historical periods, schools of thought, or problems within philosophy as chosen by the instructor.
3. Identify and develop in writing philosophical analyses and arguments based on philosophical reasoning.
 - a. Students will distinguish between valid and fallacious arguments and recognize examples of each.
 - b. Students will provide cogent reasons in support of contentious philosophical claims.
4. Evaluate in writing philosophical analyses, arguments, and texts and appreciate alternative points of view.
 - a. Students will show familiarity with some classic philosophical arguments within historical periods (examples might include Plato and Aristotle on the Theory of Forms), within schools of thought (examples might include Descartes and Hume on innate ideas), or within problems in philosophy (examples might include those for and against the reality of free will, the existence of God, the possibility of certainty, etc.).
 - b. Students will be familiar with a variety of philosophical positions on contentious issues such as the nature of the mind, the sources of knowledge, and the nature of the good.
 - c. Students will be able to evaluate competing theories and arguments, providing their own positions supported by valid arguments.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Handbook

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

College Catalog

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

College Policies and Statements

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

Accessibility and Accommodations

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.