

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number : HSS 341	Course Title : Introduction to Philosophy
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites :
Catalog Description: Exploration of enduring philosophical questions regarding the nature of reality, the existence of the external world, the extent of human freedom, the definition of the good, its relevance to moral life. The principles of social and political organization. Traditional problems in philosophy (reality, knowledge, existence of God, morality, aesthetic experience). Works by the great philosophers. Basic philosophizing skills; critical reasoning, conceptual analysis, writing skills, argument strategy and tactics.	Textbook / Required Material :
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description : This course introduces students to the nature of philosophical thinking and addresses fundamental problems of philosophy. The topics discussed will include the nature of self, questions about reality and theories of truth and knowledge. This course will directly help you better understand the topics, trends, disciplines, history, and key players in the tradition of western philosophy. It will assist in the development of your ability to view, analyze, and present topics philosophically. More generally, philosophy is very good at fostering an ability to think critically and analytically about a subject. It will help you learn to identify and describe subtle, but important, distinctions within topics, as well as identify and evaluate problems and argument through their key components.</p>	
Design content : none	Computer usage: No special usage required
<p><u>Course Outcomes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key philosophers of western philosophy and describe some of their major contributions. (5,6) 2. Identify and trace various trends in western philosophical thinking. (6) 3. Learn how to read and interpret philosophical texts (10) 4. Acquire an initial command of philosophical language. (14) 5. Critically assess their own core values, cultural assumptions, and biases in relation to those held by other individuals, cultures, and societies. (9, 12) <p>5. Explain the historical, political, and material conditions in which artistic and cultural expression emerge.</p> <p>6. Analyze how modes of thought are shaped by socio-cultural, historical, political, and economic variables.</p>	

9. Recognize ethical issues and social responsibilities in the contemporary world.

12. Recognize the relevance of coursework to personal experience.

14. Demonstrate and ability to communicate effectively with written, oral, and visual means.

Recommended reading

Forest E. Baird, Walter Kaufmann, eds., 2004 (4th edition). *Philosophy Classics: From Plato to Derrida*, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River,

Daniel Bonevac and Stephen Phillips (ed.). 2009. *Introduction to World Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

Steven M. Kahn, ed., 2002 (6th edition). *Classics of Western Philosophy*. Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis/Cambridge

Norman Melchert. 2002. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. 4th Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

John Perry, Michael Bratman and John Martin Fischer. 2009, Fifth ed. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford University Press.

Teaching methods

Lecture, discussion and audiovisual materials

Assessment methods

Midterm

Final

Critical writing

Student workload:

Preparatory reading45 hrs

Lectures 45 hrs

Critical writing 35 hrs

Preparation for presentation 25 hrs

TOTAL 150 hrs

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