

COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL-101

Introduction to Philosophy

3 Semester Hours

Humanities Core Course

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

An introduction to world philosophy which begins with the western tradition and includes Asian and African philosophies as well as the voices of women philosophers and the peoples of the Americas. Focus is on major theories of reality (metaphysics), knowledge (epistemology), value (axiology), and logic. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define philosophy, its purpose and methods.
2. Ask/answer philosophical questions.
3. Compare and contrast deductive and inductive logic.
4. Determine validity/invalidity of arguments.
5. Interpret the philosophical issues that underlie personal and social problems.
6. Define and describe the three major branches of philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, axiology).
7. Analyze the contributions of major philosophers to the history of ideas.
8. Identify and discuss philosophical issues expressed in current events and in literature.
9. Compare and contrast the methods and focuses of psychology, theology and science with those of philosophy.
10. Discuss similarities and dissimilarities between western and non-western approaches to philosophy.
11. Analyze philosophy's role in shaping and being shaped by other cultural forces (politics, economics, religion and the arts).
12. Develop and defend a personal philosophy.

Major Topics

- I. Metaphysics
 - A. Human Nature
 - 1. Essentialist Views
 - 2. Non-essentialist Views
 - 3. Asian and African Views of Personhood
 - B. Reality
 - 1. Materialism
 - 2. Idealism
 - 3. Pragmatism
 - 4. Existentialism
 - 5. Buddhist, Taoist, African Worldviews
 - C. Philosophy and God
 - 1. Theism
 - 2. Atheism
 - 3. Agnosticism
- II. Epistemology
 - A. Knowledge
 - 1. Rationalist Ways of Knowing
 - 2. Empiricist Ways of Knowing
 - 3. Intuitive Ways of Knowing
 - B. Truth Tests
 - 1. Correspondence
 - 2. Coherence
 - 3. Pragmatic
 - C. Aesthetics
- III. Values
 - A. Ethics
 - 1. Consequentialist Theories
 - 2. Non-consequentialist Theories
 - 3. Virtue Ethics
 - B. Political Philosophy
 - 1. Anarchism - Totalitarianism
 - 2. Social Contract Theory
 - 3. Natural Law and Natural Rights
 - 4. Sovereignty
 - C. Social Philosophy
 - 1. Justice Based on Merit
 - 2. Justice Based on Fairness
 - 3. Justice Based on Social Utility
 - 4. Communitarianism

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- At least a third of the course grade will be based on essay exams.
- Course assignments/exams will include at least 1000 words of formal writing.
- Each student will write a reflective paper on the philosophical content in a specific work of fiction.
- Final grades will be based on class participation, informal writings, quizzes, essay examinations, a reflective paper and a comprehensive final examination.

Other Course Information

This course is a Humanities Core course. This course is a Humanities and an Arts and Sciences elective.

Date Revised: 7/24/03/hm