

PHI 215
PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 111

Corequisites: None

This course introduces fundamental issues in philosophy by looking at classical and contemporary philosophers. Emphasis is on knowledge and belief, appearance and reality, determinism and free will, faith and reason, and justice and inequality. Upon completion, students should be able to identify, analyze, and critique the philosophical components of an issue; understand and discuss some of the major philosophical issues in epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy, and aesthetics; grasp the impact of international cultural influences on current philosophical thinking and assess some of the philosophical problems in modern culture. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.*
Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

- a. Discuss major philosophical concepts.
- b. Discuss ancient and modern theories of epistemology.
- c. Discuss ancient and modern theories of metaphysics.
- d. Discuss the differences between determinism and free will.
- e. Discuss ethical systems.
- f. Recognize and analyze a philosophical problem.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction
 - A. What is philosophy?
 - B. Basic concepts of logic
- II. Philosophical Inquiry
 - A. Plato's Apology
 - B. Multicultural perspectives on philosophy
 - C. Theistic arguments
 1. Ontological argument
 2. Cosmological argument
 3. Teleological argument

D. Problem of evil

III. Epistemology-the structure of knowledge

- A. Existentialism
- B. Pragmatism
- C. Rationalism
- D. Vision Seeking
- E. Satori

IV. Metaphysics

- A. Free will and determinism
- B. Idealism
- C. Empiricism
- D. Materialism

V. Ethics

- A. Relativism and Universalism
- B. Buddhist ethics
- C. Feminist ethics
- D. Moral Doctrines

VI. Political philosophy

- A. Liberalism
- B. Civil Rights
- C. Non-violent resistance
- D. Democracy

VII. Aesthetics

- A. Art and culture
- B. Nature and experience
- C. Multicultural perspectives on aesthetics

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.