

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:

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

1. Discuss the major branches of philosophy and the art of philosophical thinking.
2. Expand her or his perspectives on life and engage in discussions about philosophical ideas in epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy and aesthetics.
3. Understand the importance of tolerating and respecting diverse perspectives on life by looking at philosophical ideas from around the world.
4. Develop skills in critical thinking, reading and writing by reading and critiquing original writings in philosophy.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction
 - A. What is Philosophy?
 - B. Reading Philosophy
 - C. Basic Concepts of Logic
- II. Metaphysics
 - A. The Nature of Reality: The Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle
 - B. The Forms: Universalism vs. Nominalism
 - C. The existence of God
 1. Ontological arguments
 2. Cosmological arguments
 3. Teleological arguments
 4. Problem of evil
 - D. Free Will and Determinism
- III. Epistemology: The Structure of Knowledge
 - A. Rationalism
 - B. Empiricism
 - C. Transcendental Idealism
- IV. Axiology
 - A. Ethics
 1. Metaethics
 2. Normative Ethics

- 3. Applied Ethics
- B. Political Philosophy

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 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.