

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION
GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

PHI Course Prefix	105 Course Number	Introduction to Philosophy Course Title	3-0 (Lec-Lab)	3 Semester Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles and problems of philosophy as seen in different schools of thought. Topics: validity of human knowledge; nature of reality; mind and body; free will and determinism; moral and aesthetic values; and religious belief. IAI H4 900

TOPICAL OUTLINE

There are alternative methods of organizing the subject matter of philosophy. No one of these methods is used universally

- I. Historical - To study philosophy historically, one would begin with the Greeks and continue to the present.
- II. Selected Works or Thinkers - To study selected works from a few great philosophers
- III. Topics in Philosophy - To study selected problems that have been important in the tradition. Typically this will involve discussion of six to eight major problems of philosophy
- IV. Some combination of the above

METHODS OF PRESENTATION

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Small group work
4. Student presentations
5. Student debates

STUDENT OUTCOMES: (*The student should . . .*)

1. demonstrate an awareness of philosophical issues in at least the following areas: epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.
2. identify and explain the main arguments, ideas, or questions of three thinkers, including at least one from outside the western philosophical canon
3. identify and explain how philosophical concepts inform discussions of real-world issues
4. apply distinct philosophical perspectives to a discussion of real-world issues.
5. analyze and defend judgments about philosophical claims in the face of competing judgments
6. evaluate competing philosophical perspectives on human problems and action
7. demonstrate an understanding of the weaknesses of one's own view and the strengths of a view with which one disagrees
8. demonstrate the use of three primary texts in service of the above outcomes
9. write a total of at least ten pages (of approximately 300 words each) of college level writing in support in the service of the above outcomes.
10. communicate philosophical ideas and issues orally

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Quizzes
2. Exams (may be oral)
3. Written reading responses
4. Debates
5. Homework
6. Class activities

7. Participation

TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: The following are some suggested texts:

Wolff, Robert P., *About Philosophy*, 10th ed. Prentice Hall, 2008

Kleiman & Lewis, *Philosophy: An Introduction Through Literature*, Paragon House, 1998

Lawhead, *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*, 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill, 2005

Timko and Hoff, *Philosophies for Living*, Prentice Hall, 2001

PREPARED BY: Colleen Burns

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