

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

- A. Department Information:
Division: Humanities and Social Science
Department: Philosophy/Religious Studies
Course ID: PHIL 112
Course Title: Philosophy in Literature
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Prerequisite: None
- B. Catalog and Schedule Description:
Ethical and metaphysical themes as presented in literature from the classical to the modern period, with emphasis on the literary treatment of such problems as freedom and determinism, the nature of virtue, the meaning of death, the individual's relationship to the state and the structure of reality.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Create and articulate a historical, cultural, and/or intellectual matrix within which the concerns and the questions of the discipline of philosophy can be placed;
- B. Read and critically evaluate selected primary sources in literature that relate philosophical themes (including but not limited to, dialogues, aphorisms, essays, sermons, theological treatises, credal formulae, novels, and short stories)
- C. Respond critically, analytically, and/or synthetically in writing to issues dealing with the tradition of philosophy (including but not limited to (including but not limited to ethical issues, epistemological issues, issues of political philosophy, and/or the impact of Eastern religions on western philosophy);
- D. Apply the ideas and concepts in the tradition of philosophy (as shown through literature) to contemporary experience.

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

- A. Theories of Human Nature (philosophy embodied in literature)
1. Freud
 2. Jung
 3. Marx
 4. Christianity and Judaism
 5. Hinduism and Buddhism
- B. Evil and Suffering (philosophy embodied in literature)
1. Theodicy
 2. Anthrodcy
 3. Chance/Randomness
- C. Moral Problems (philosophy embodied in literature)
1. Relativism
 2. Absolutism
 3. Feminist Ethics
- D. Utopias and Social Issues (philosophy embodied in literature)
1. Class and gender equity
 2. Ethnic and religious equity
 3. Necessity and metaphoric language
 4. Dystopias as vehicles for utopian ideas

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussions (class and group)
- C. Audio-Visuals
- D. Reading of texts, both secondary and primary
- E. Writing tasks appropriate for the material
- F. Computer Tutorials (if applicable)

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading: Read John Stuart Mill's Utilitarianism. Be able to summarize the progression of the argument by paraphrasing the key ideas in each chapter. Read Martin Luther King's Letter From a Birmingham Jail. Be able to summarize the progression of the argument by paraphrasing the key ideas in each paragraph. Compare and contrast the utilitarian approach with the moral law approach in the above two selections.
- B. Writing, critical thinking: Write a lengthy letter to Dr. Jack Kevorkian in which you state whether you agree with his basic idea of physician assisted suicide for those people who have a terminal illness and who are suffering incredible pain. As you develop your ideas, cite ethical theorists from the utilitarian, deontological, and virtue ethics traditions. Further, make sure to apply those theories to aspects of your experience that relate to the issues of death, suffering, medical treatment of terminal illnesses, or individual autonomy.

VII. EVALUATION:

- A. Methods of evaluation will vary from instructor to instructor, but may include multiple choice tests, or sentence completion tests. In addition, written components such as essay tests, writing tasks (i.e., journals, summary reviews, interpretive essays, and/or term projects) will be included. Telecomputing can include downloading and uploading reading and writing tasks, on-line discussion, and computer tutorials. Grading may be comparative within a class or may be based on an absolute standard.
 - 1. Sample objective test question: The author of "The Plague" is
 - a. James
 - b. Gadamer
 - c. Camus
 - d. Sartre
 - e. None of the above
 - 2. Sample subjective test question: Use the novel *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn to identify issues of epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and aesthetics that have an impact on contemporary American society.
- B. While the frequency of evaluation will depend on the type of evaluation (i.e., "objective" or written), evaluation will take place periodically throughout the semester with enough frequency to be sufficient to measure student progress and will be sensitive to the various learning styles of students. The minimum evaluation will consist of at least two evaluative instruments (i.e., papers, projects, portfolios, or tests) chosen by the instructor of record for the class.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

- A. Rosenstand, Nina. The Moral of the Story: An Introduction to Ethics. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1997.
- B. Curzer, Howard J. Ethical Theory and Moral Problems. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1999.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

Supplementary material may include handouts, primary sources, maps, study guides, computer disks, and/or software.