

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

- A. Department Information:  
Division: Humanities and Social Science  
Department: Philosophy/Religious Studies  
Course ID: PHIL 119  
Course Title: Ancient and Medieval Western Philosophy  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 3 Hours  
Prerequisite: None.
- B. Catalog and Schedule Description:  
Introduction to some of the major ideas of Western civilization, attempting to trace significant developments in Western thought from the Pre-Socratics to the end of the Medieval period.

**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 the tradition of philosophy (including but not limited to, dialogues, aphorisms, essays, sermons, theological treatises, credal formulae, novels, short stories, and non-textual primary sources such as music and visual art forms);
- C. Respond critically, analytically, and/or synthetically in writing to issues dealing with the tradition of philosophy (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 to contemporary experience by the continual process of thinking critically about questions that matter.

**IV. COURSE CONTENT:**

- A. Pre-Socratic Philosophy
1. Metaphysics and Epistemology
  2. Ethics
  3. Political Philosophy
  4. Philosophy of Religion
  5. Aesthetic philosophy
- B. Classical Greek Philosophy
1. Metaphysics and Epistemology
  2. Ethics
  3. Political Philosophy
  4. Philosophy of Religion
  5. Aesthetic philosophy
- C. Hellenistic Philosophy
1. Metaphysics and Epistemology
  2. Ethics
  3. Political Philosophy
  4. Philosophy of Religion
  5. Aesthetic philosophy

- D. Medieval Philosophy
    - 1. Metaphysics and Epistemology
    - 2. Ethics
    - 3. Political Philosophy
    - 4. Philosophy of Religion
    - 5. Aesthetic philosophy
  - E. Non-Western Philosophy in the ancient and medieval periods
- 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 Plato's Euthyphro and the section of the Republic called "The Allegory of the Cave." Be able to summarize the action of the dialogue as well as the progress of the prisoner out of and back into the cave. Be able to compare and contrast the intellectual journeys in each primary source. Be able to apply Plato's metaphor of enlightenment or education to your own educational journey. Be able to identify the Platonic elements that influenced Christianity in the Medieval period.
  - B. Writing, critical thinking: Compare the Socratic mode of questioning with the Thomistic style of questioning. After noting the similarities and differences, evaluate the adequacy of each style for "postmodern" America using your own experience as well as information gleaned from researching ancient and medieval philosophy.
- VII. EVALUATION:**
- A. Methods of evaluation will vary from instructor to instructor, but may include true-false tests, 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 Medieval philosophy associated with the ontological proof for God's existence is
      - a. Augustine
      - b. Aquinas
      - c. Anselm
      - d. Averroes
      - e. None of the above
    - 2. Sample subjective test question: Rehearse the cosmological, ontological, and teleological proof for the existence of God, making specific references to the theologians of the period and the historical circumstances that would have an impact on their thinking.
  - 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 (papers projects, portfolios, or tests) chosen by the instructor of record for the class.

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

- A. Kolak, Daniel. The Mayfield Anthology of Western Philosophy.  
Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1998.
- B. Baird & Kaufmann, Philosophical Classics: Vol. I. New York: Harper, 1990.

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:**

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