

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

- A. Department Information:
Division: Humanities and Social Science
Department: Philosophy/Religious Studies
Course ID: PHIL 120
Course Title: Modern Western Philosophy
Units: 3
Lecture: 3 Hours
Prerequisite: None
- B. Catalog and Schedule Description:
Introduction to some of the major ideas of Western civilization, tracing significant developments in western thought from Descartes to the present.

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. Metaphysics and Epistemology
1. Modern Philosophy
2. 18th-19th Century
3. Contemporary Philosophy
- B. Ethics
1. Deontology
2. Consequentialism
3. Feminist theories of ethics
- C. Political Philosophy
1. Early Modern Theories
2. Contemporary Theories
3. Feminist Theories
- D. Philosophy of Religion
1. Proofs of God
a. Pragmatism
b. Linguistic
2. God in an Age of Science
- E. Philosophy of Mind
1. Artificial intelligence
2. Postmodern theories
- F. Eastern Philosophy's impact on the west
1. Hinduism
2. Buddhism
3. Chinese Religions

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 Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy. Be able to summarize the progression of Descartes' journey from doubt to certainty. Be able to compare and contrast the intellectual journeys in each primary source. Be able to apply Descartes' theories of rationalism and empiricism to your own contemporary experience.
- B. Writing, critical thinking: Compare the Cartesian style of questioning and his quest for certainty with Sara Ruddick's theories on "Maternal Thinking." After noting the similarities and differences, evaluate the adequacy of each style of thinking using your own experience as well as information gleaned from researching contemporary 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 nineteenth-century philosopher who is considered the "father" of existentialism is:
 - a. Feuerbach
 - b. Rauschenbusch
 - c. Schiller
 - d. Kierkegaard
 - e. Habermas
 - 2. Sample subjective test question: Compare and contrast the philosophical movements of modernism and deconstructionism, making specific reference to at least two philosophers for each movement; evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each movement.
- 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:

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