

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 100

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy I

Course Description: Presents an introduction to philosophical problems and perspectives with emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about meaning, knowledge, reality, and values. Lecture 3 hours per week. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To fulfill a humanities/fine arts elective, or provide information to anyone interested in learning about philosophy.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Identify the influences of Greek thought in the development of Western thinking;
- b. Identify features of Rationalist and Empiricist thinking in Western thought;
- c. Apply methods of analysis to determine the distinction between belief and knowledge;
- d. Identify characteristics of existential philosophy that are important in today's thinking; and
- e. Distinguish the features of Buddhist thinking from the traditional Western mindset.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Ancient Greek Idealism: Socrates, Plato, Pre-Socratics, and Aristotle
- b. Nature of metaphysics and traditional metaphysical problem
- c. Limits and nature of language
- d. Empiricism, rationalism, and pragmatism
- e. Introduction to existential thought
- f. Ordinary language school of thought
- g. Cartesian dualism—mind/body problem
- h. Contrasts with Buddhism

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