

Philosophy 120
NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces _____
(course #)

(b) cannot take _____ for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

Readings will vary from section to section but will typically use texts such as Soccio, Archetypes of Wisdom; White, Discovering Philosophy, readings such as selections from Plato, Descartes, Hume, and contemporary selections on epistemological and metaphysical issues.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To acquaint students with major contributions to Western metaphysics and epistemology.
2. To study fundamental positions on key issues in metaphysics and epistemology.
3. To develop students' skills in the methods of philosophical analysis and argumentation, by teaching students to read, understand, and respond critically and coherently to arguments arising from these issues.
4. To develop the abilities of students to see how philosophical positions underlie and influence ideas and developments in other disciplines and in everyday life.

METHODS:

- to introduce major philosophical issues in epistemology and metaphysics by placing them in their historical and cultural context.
- to show students how to read closely and critically several pieces of philosophical writing.
- to use class discussions and presentations to enable students to respond to these writings, and write lucid, critical, argumentative essays on the philosophical issues discussed.
- to encourage students to determine the ways in which these issues are relevant to their lives and other studies, and to formulate their own positions.

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STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Evaluation procedures will vary, but students are always evaluated on a variety of performances that may include essays, contributions to class, presentation of papers, examinations, journals, interviews, video presentations, or other special projects. A typical distribution of work would assign 10% to class contribution, 30% to informal assignments and in-class work, 30% to examinations, and 30% to essays.

COURSE CONTENT

Course content will vary from section to section, but will typically include consideration of a selection of topics such as the questions of personal identity, free will and determinism, the nature of reality, the mind-body problem, proofs of the existence of God, scepticism, and an introduction to the philosophical perspectives of non-Western cultural traditions: for example, Eastern or First Nations views of personal identity.