PHIL 120
Philosophy
Knowledge and Reality

COURSE NAME/NUMBER
3

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
UFV CREDITS

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
Many of the traditional problems and arguments in philosophy deal with the nature of human individuality. Individuality is acclaimed as one of the great achievements of western civilization. The progress of civilization has often been measured by how much individuality is allowed to flourish. What is individuality? What makes me a unique individual? In order to answer these questions, we also need to ask: When do I have free will to express my individuality? What is the relationship between my physical nature — my body — and my spiritual nature — my mind? Am I really anything more than a complicated thinking machine? What happens to me when I die?

PREREQUISITES: None
COREQUISITES: None
PRE or COREQUISITES: None

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces:
(b) Cross-listed with: 
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

SERVICE COURSE TO: (department/program)

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
Lectures: 20 Hrs
Seminar: 25 Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field experience: Hrs
Student directed learning: Hrs
Other (specify): Hrs

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course: 
Hours per day: 

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: 28
Expected frequency of course offerings: Every semester
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only) □ Yes □ No
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department) □ Yes □ No
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE: □ Yes □ No

Course designer(s): Paul Herman
Department Head: Hamish Telford
Date approved: January 2012
Supporting area consultation Date of meeting: February 24, 2012
Curriculum Committee chair: Tetsuomi Anzai
Date approved: April 2012
Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte
Date approved: April 2012
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval Date of meeting: May 23, 2012
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify and describe basic positions on major theoretical issues such as freedom and causality, the nature of knowledge, personal identity.
2. Correctly use philosophical terms and concepts in conversations and informal course work.
3. Communicate orally and in writing systematic critical thinking about some of these major, general issues in order to produce and defend their own solutions to questions about specific practical, metaphysical and epistemological issues such as life after death, psychic phenomena, abortion, artificial intelligence.
4. Exhibit motivation to use the skills and knowledge from this course to think about moral and political issues encountered in everyday life.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
Methods will vary with the instructor but will typically include:
The instructor introduces major metaphysical and epistemological theories in their historical context, explains their basic structure, and applies them to specific issues.
Students respond to these theories through class discussion, small group, and individual work on the arguments presented for and against the theories, including applying them to practical metaphysical and epistemological issues.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
☒ Examination(s) ☒ Portfolio assessment ☐ Interview(s) ☐ Other (specify):
☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]
Benjamin: Philosophy and This Actual World
Klemke: Contemporary Perspectives on Perennial Issues
Schick: Doing Philosophy
Ravenscroft: Philosophy of Mind: A Beginner’s Guide

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]
10% Contributions to class
30% Informal assignments such as journals, prep questions, co-op work
30% Two Essays
30% Final Exam

COURSE CONTENT:
[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]
1-2: Basic philosophical methods: nature of philosophy, reasoning and writing in philosophy
3-5: Freedom and Causality: free will, determinism, compatibilism
6-9: Knowledge: empiricism, rationalism, Kantian synthesis; postmodernism
9-11: Personal identity: mind and body; subjective experience and objective identity
11-13: Applied issues: abortion, artificial intelligence, life after death, psychic phenomena, individuality, love

Indigenous perspectives may be included throughout the course.