

Last Revised: September 2020

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: The History of Philosophy

Course Number: PHIL 100

Credits: 3

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring)
12 (Summer)

Total Hours: 39

Course Level: First Year Second Year
 New Revised Course
 Replacement Course

Department: Humanities

Department Head: P. Best

Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable): N/A

Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE): NONE

Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE): NONE

Precluded Courses: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the entire field of philosophy covering the essential features of various schools of philosophical thinking and their main proponents, from the early Greeks, the beginnings of Christianity, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment and Romanticism to the 19th and 20th centuries. A number of questions will be examined from their historical roots including: What is the soul? How is the mind and body connected? What is reality and how can we comprehend it? What is being? Does language provide us with the tools to know everything? What is the perfect political system? Is there a God? How should we live? How should we think?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize, appreciate, and draw comparisons between well-known philosophers and their ideas.
- Analyze, evaluate, and rationally defend claims made about the human condition.
- Identify and describe the changes in thought that occurred throughout history.
- Appreciate the balance of open-mindedness and skepticism that exists in philosophy.
- Use critical thinking skills when evaluating abstract arguments made in everyday life.

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades Percentage Pass/Fail Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Other

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 25 % <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i> In-Class Essay	Lab Work: %	Participation: 5% <i>Specify nature of participation:</i>	Project: % <i>Specify nature of project:</i>
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 35 %	Final Exam: 35%	Other: % <i>Specify:</i>

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

The texts are readily accessible online, however, if preferred, you may purchase hard copies. Selections will be announced in class and online. Suggested links are listed at the end of the course outline.

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction ; The Origins of Western Philosophy & the Pre-Socratics
Week 2	Sophism, the Socratic Method; Justice and government
Week 3	What is knowledge? What is a “good” society? An introduction to Epicureanism, the Stoics, and Platonism
Week 4	The Humanists: What corrupts society? A discussion on power, government, identity, and human nature
Week 5	Introduction to the Age of Reason through Descartes’ ideas of man, soul, and God MIDTERM
Week 6	The Enlightenment; How to achieve human happiness
Week 7	Freedom, knowledge, happiness and human nature according to Rousseau
Week 8	Communism vs capitalism, humans vs. machines, dehumanization and alienation in society
Week 9	Existentialism, nihilism, and the burden of free will ESSAY
Week 10	What does it mean to be human? Dehumanization, the absurd, and “the other”.
Week 11	Existentialism, the “other”, the absurd in The Guest and “Far from Men”
Week 12	Morality, God, and post-modern philosophy.

Week 13

FINAL EXAM

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: bctransferguide.ca