

**Effective Semester:** Summer 2025

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Title** Great Works in the History of Philosophy

**Course Number:** PHIL 100

**Credits:** 3.0

**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:** Patrick 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 several of the most important philosophers in the history of thought. The thinkers covered in this course have heavily shaped the customary philosophic tradition and brought forth issues that are still debated today. This course will touch upon several great philosophers and their historical contexts, the topics they inserted into the greater philosophical discourse and how these topics have been approached in the modern era. Some of the thinkers looked at will include Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Confucius, Hume, the Nyaya-Sutras, and Locke. Along with Western philosophers, we will also study the thought of non-Western philosophers. Our goal is to understand the significance of their contributions to philosophy as we know it today while touching upon some of their more recent interlocutors to understand the extent to which they have shaped this academic discipline.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Draw comparisons between well-known philosophers and their ideas, including both western and non-western thinkers.
- Describe how some influential thinkers still contribute to philosophical discourse today
- Explain the basic structures of a philosophical argument
- Formulate a philosophical claim supported by an original argument with sound reasoning
- Articulate philosophical ideas to non-philosophers

## 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: 30% <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i> Two 15% dialogue assignments—students will work in pairs to write dialogues representing opposing viewpoints from the authors we cover.	Lab Work: %	Participation: 20% <i>Specify nature of participation:</i> Weekly in-class reflection writing exercises will be given, along with students asking questions and participating in discussion.	Project: %
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 25%	Final Exam: 25%	Other: %

### TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

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

Readings will be posted on MyCC every week. Readings below are tentative and some will be added throughout the semester.

### COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic	Readings
<b>Week 1:</b>	Introduction to (Western) Philosophy & Socrates	<i>The Apology</i> by Plato
<b>Week 2:</b>	Plato vs Aristotle	<i>Republic Book IV</i> by Plato <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> by Aristotle
<b>Week 3:</b>	Does God Exist?	Problem of Evil by Epicurus Ontological Argument by Anselm
<b>Week 4:</b>	How Do I Know?	Meditations by Descartes
<b>Week 5:</b>	Who Am I?	Personal Identity by John Locke
<b>Week 6:</b>	<b>Midterm Exam Week</b>	
<b>Week 7:</b>	Am I Free?	Moral Luck by Thomas Nagel
<b>Week 8:</b>	How Can I Be Good?	Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill
<b>Week 9:</b>	What is Beauty?	On the Standard of Taste by David Hume New Dramatic Art, Abhinavagupta

**Week 10:** What Does it Mean to be a Man? A Woman?

De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

**Week 11:** What Comes Next?

Death by Thomas Nagel

#### 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](http://bctransferguide.ca)

**Last Reviewed:** January 2025

**Last Revised:** January 2025