

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: G. Kim

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

Last Reviewed: January 2025

Last Revised: January 2025