

## Course Proposal: PHI 1000G Introduction to Philosophy

### 1. Catalog Description:

- a. Course Level: **Philosophy 1000G**
- b. Title: **Introduction to Philosophy**
- c. Meeting times and credits: **(3-0-3)**
- d. Terms offered: **F, S.**
- e. Short title: **Intro Philosophy**
- f. Course description:

An introduction to philosophy through ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary sources. The course includes main areas such as ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion.

- g. Prerequisites: **None**
- h. The course is **writing active**.

### 2. Student Learning Objectives:

The course is writing active, and, like all courses in philosophy, it emphasizes the verbal expression of concepts and arguments. The course will therefore contribute to the goal of producing graduates who write and speak effectively.

Philosophical thinking must be critical and rational. The course will therefore contribute to the goal of producing graduates who think critically.

The course includes sections on ethics and political philosophy. It will therefore contribute to the goal of producing graduates who function as responsible citizens.

In addition, the course will provide students with a fundamental knowledge of the historical periods and major subject areas in philosophy.

3. **Course Outline\*:**

The course will be offered in sections of fifty minute classes (three times per week) and seventy five minute classes (twice per week) over fifteen weeks during a regular semester.

- WK 1** General Introduction to Philosophy; Plato: The Question of Justice. Republic, BK I.
- WK 2** Plato: Justice in the State and the Individual. Republic, BK II, III.
- WK 3** Plato: Justice in the State and the Individual. Republic, BK III, IV.
- WK 4** Plato: The Philosopher King; Allegories of the Sun, Line, and Cave. Republic, BK V, VI.
- WK 5** Exam #1. The Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for God's Existence; A Priori and A Posteriori Arguments; Aquinas: The Cosmological Argument. Pojman, pp. 26-31. Edwards: Critique of the Cosmological Argument. Pojman, pp. 32-41.
- WK 6** Paley: The Teleological Argument; Hume: Critique of the Teleological Argument. Pojman, pp. 41-53. Anselm: The Ontological Argument; Gaunilo: Critique of the Ontological Argument. Pojman, pp. 53-57.
- WK 7** Exam #2. Metaphysics and Epistemology: Rationalism and Empiricism; Descartes: Rationalism and Methodical Doubt--The Cogito. Pojman, 112-119.
- WK 8** Empiricism: Locke and the Theory of Primary and Secondary Qualities; Berkeley: Critique of the Concept of Matter. Pojman, pp. 119-141.
- WK 9** Radical Empiricism: Hume and Epistemological Skepticism; Critique of the Concept of

Causality. Pojman, 141-150.

- WK 10** Kant: Transcendental Philosophy and the Theory of Knowledge. Pojman, pp. 150-157. Exam #3.
- WK 11** Ethics; Benedict: Moral Relativism; Pojman: Critique of Moral Relativism. Pojman, pp. 308-324.
- WK 12** Kant: The Moral Law; Mill: Utilitarianism. Pojman, pp. 358-377.
- WK 13** Sartre: Existentialist Ethics; Nietzsche: Genealogy of Morals. Pojman, pp. 385-401.
- WK 14** Modern Political Philosophy; The Social Contract: Hobbes and Locke. Pojman, pp. 405-421.
- WK 15** Freedom and Equality; Mill: Freedom and The Greater Good; Hospers: Libertarianism; Marx: Communism. Pojman, pp. 421-442.

Final Examination During Finals Week

\* Instructors may modify this outline for their own sections of the course.

#### 4. Evaluation of Student Learning:

Students will be evaluated according to a variety of exercises, including essay examinations, research papers, and oral presentations. Instructors will specify the methods of evaluation for their own sections of the course. However, essay examinations and/or research papers will always be required. Thus the course will be listed as **writing active**.

Sample: There will be three unit exams in which 60% of the points are assigned to essay questions. There will be a comprehensive final exam in which 50% of the points are assigned to essay questions. Points from essays will constitute 55% of the final grade (150 out of 275 points).

#### 5. Rationale:

The course will be placed in the **Humanities and Fine Arts** segment of the general education program. **Introduction to Philosophy** focuses upon the interpretation of primary texts, and introduces students to philosophical methods and sources for reflecting critically upon science, religion, the arts, and what philosophers refer to as "the human condition." The course is introductory level and pre-supposes no prior knowledge of the material. It is therefore appropriately listed as **PHI 1500G**. The course will replace PHI 1500C (Culture and the Human Person), but no additional program changes will be required for the philosophy major or minor.

**6. Implementation:**

a. Any member of the Philosophy Department is qualified to teach this course.

b. The texts for the sample outline above are:

The Republic of Plato, Francis MacDonald Cornford, trans. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1941).

Philosophy: The Quest for Truth, 2nd edition., Louis P. Pojman, ed. (Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1992).

c. There will be no additional costs to students.

d. The course will be initially offered in the spring of 2001.

**7. Community College Transfer:**

A community college course may be judged equivalent to this course.

**8. Date Approved by the Philosophy Department:**

\_\_\_\_\_3-27-00\_\_\_\_\_

9. Date Approved by the College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee:

\_\_\_\_\_4-5-00\_\_\_\_\_

10. Date Approved by the Council on Academic Affairs:

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Department Contact Person:

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