

July 18, 2013

1. College: **College of Liberal and Applied Arts**
2. Department: **Division of Multidisciplinary Programs**
3. Course status: **existing; does not require modification**
4. Course prefix and number: **PHI 153**
5. Course title: **Introduction to Philosophy**
6. Course catalog description: **An introduction to philosophy through the examination of prominent philosophical problems, topics, and theorists.**
7. Number of semester credit hours: **3**
8. Estimated total course enrollment per year: **600**
9. Course prerequisites and/or required qualifications for enrolling in the class: **None**
10. Course **is/will be** available online.
11. Foundational Component Area: **Language, Philosophy, and Culture**
12. Explain why this course fits into this foundation component area: **This course meets the Coordinating Board's description of language, philosophy, and culture courses because it focuses on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by instructing the students in a variety of philosophical topics and exposing them to dialogue and disagreements among philosophers holding disparate positions regarding these topics as well as exploring the consequences of those positions. This course involves the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation (by discussing, for example, basic concepts of reasoning, philosophical theories of reality, knowledge, humanity, and good vs. evil) in order to understand the human condition across cultures (by understanding, for example, participation in rational discourse, the world that humans live in, whether humans are capable of making justified knowledge claims, what it means to be human, and how humans make decisions about how best to act).**
13. Core Objectives
  - Critical Thinking - Students learn critical thinking by acquiring skills in inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information. Students are asked to think creatively and innovatively by questioning their taken-for-granted assumptions about topics that form the underlying background of their day-to-day worldview. In Philosophy, they will explore issues, ideas, artifacts, and events relating to these topics before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Skills are taught through lecture and readings. They are developed through question and answer and through discussion; and they are demonstrated through examination and through an assignment which requires students to analyze contrasting theories in regard to the justification of knowledge claims, evaluate these theories based on this analysis, and formulate, justify, and clearly express their own position on this topic.
  - Communication Skills - Instructors use class time to explain the importance of communication skills and the norms for the clear expression of ideas within the discipline of philosophy. Students will develop and demonstrate their writing skills by completing a research paper in which they analyze contrasting theories in regard to the justification of knowledge claims, evaluate these theories based on this analysis, and formulate, justify, and clearly express their own position on this

topic. This course assignment will require students to analyze and evaluate patterns of reasoning and to interpret inferences drawn from a variety of evidence. In addition to the research paper, students will also engage in oral communication through class discussion (orally, in face-to-face courses, electronically in online courses) but only after instructors have explained the guidelines for effective group discussion.

- Social Responsibility - Students' intercultural competence will be enhanced by class lectures and readings exploring and challenging their own (often unrecognized) implicit cultural assumptions, and by lectures and readings exploring the cultural backgrounds of philosophers from different historical periods and areas and the influence of these backgrounds on their philosophy. Civic engagement will be encouraged by lectures and readings that demonstrate the essentially cooperative nature of the philosophical enterprise and the value of each individual in the process. The likelihood of students' participating effectively in regional, national, and global communities will be increased by instruction and readings that enable students to respect cultural differences while also looking beyond them to explore the possibility of common human truths and values. The written assignment for the course requires students to challenge the assumptions and opinions that guide their understanding of social interactions by exploring the social consequences of different theories concerning human knowledge.
- Personal Responsibility - A student's understanding of the connections among choices, actions, and consequences and their relation to ethical decision-making will be enhanced by class lectures and readings addressing these topics. The ability to recognize and assess their own positions, to recognize similar issues in a variety of settings, to think about how different perspectives might be applied to topics of concern and to consider the ramifications of alternative, creative, and innovative ways of looking at situations will be developed through question and answer and through discussion; and they are demonstrated through examination and through an assignment which requires students to explain the manner in which their individual actions would be informed by their deliberate and justified choice of a theory concerning human knowledge that would help guide their decision making.

Contact person for questions about this submission:

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