

Virginia Western Community College

PHI 101

Introduction to Philosophy I

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Introduces a broad spectrum of philosophical problems and perspectives with an emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about meaning, knowledge, reality, and values. Part I of II.

As an introductory course, it provides a general overview of how major philosophers have addressed these principal problems and it seeks to assess their consequences. The course also incorporates critical thinking skills that enable the development, or better understanding, of one's personal philosophy (worldview).

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Miller, Ed L., & Jensen, Jon, *Questions that Matter*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 6th ed., 2009. ISBN: 978-0-073-38656-0.

Open Education Resource for certain sections

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Be conversant with and understand key philosophical terms and concepts
- Learn to think more analytically, critically and logically
- Gain a basic understanding of the major fields of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and logic.
- Gain a basic understanding of the relationship between philosophy and other academic disciplines: science, politics, religion, art, etc.
- Develop a foundational knowledge of the major recognized philosophers—ancient to modern—and their proposed approaches to the problems and issues of philosophy
- Interact with the most basic questions and issues of life
- Learn to evaluate the consequences of ideas and discern their impact on life and culture
- Develop, or come to understand more deeply, one's own philosophy of life (or worldview) and be able to articulate it

Topical Description

	Introduction: The Nature of Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter one: What is Philosophy?
1	Part One: The Question of Reason <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter two: The First Metaphysicians ○ Chapter three: The Idea of Form ○ Chapter Four: Mind and Matter ○ Chapter Five: Idealism ○ Chapter Six: Materialism
2	Part Two: The Question of Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter Seven: Skepticism ○ Chapter Eight: The Way of Reason ○ Chapter Nine: The Way of Experience ○ Chapter Ten: The Problem of Certainty
3	Part Three: The Question of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter Eleven: God and the World ○ Chapter Twelve: God and Reason ○ Chapter Thirteen: God and Evil
4	Part Four: The Question of Morality
5	Optional Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part Five: The Question of Society

Notes to Instructors

None