



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PHIL
Course Number:	101
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Philosophy
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Philosophy
Course Disciplines:	Philosophy
Catalog Description:	This course investigates the big questions of philosophy, such as: What is the meaning of life? What can I know? Do I have free will? How do we know we are not living in a computer simulation? Emphasis is on how philosophers go about answering such questions, and how these questions are relevant to our lives. Note: Students may take either Philosophy 101 or Philosophy 101H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for ENGL C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	prior to fall 1992
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	

CSU GE:	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Epistemological Terminology Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the basic epistemological terminology and issues, such as the source and basis of our beliefs, empiricism v. rationalism, and the problem of induction. SLO #2 Metaphysical Concepts and Arguments Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the metaphysical concepts and arguments regarding such issues as free will v. determinism, the mind-body problem, and whether God exists. SLO #3 Morality Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of some of the basic issues and topics related to morality, such as justice, minority perspectives, moral objectivism vs. moral relativism, various ethical theories, and/or a basic understanding of how those theories can be applied to contemporary moral issues.
Course Objectives:	1. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues. 2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods. 3. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions. 4. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth. 5. Explain and differentiate three main areas of philosophy: ethics, epistemology and metaphysics. 6. Explain the difference between knowledge and beliefs about the physical world (the realm of science) and knowledge and beliefs about moral issues and metaphysical things such as God, Heaven and Hell, and souls. 7. Assess and explain perspectives and outlooks on life that are beyond traditional societal paradigms, such as minority, feminist and Taoist perspectives. 8. Distinguish between normative and descriptive ethics. 9. Explain the difference between duty ethics and consequentialism, and illustrate this difference by applying the theories to an ethical problem. 10. Differentiate moral relativism from moral objectivism, and explain their relationship to contemporary moral issues. 11. Discuss and analyze what constitutes a good and fulfilling life, such as the roles of money and happiness.

	12. Clarify the difference between conviction, belief and knowledge. 13. Identify and analyze metaphysical problems, such as the problem of free will versus determinism; the existence of God; the ultimate nature of reality; and the nature and existence of consciousness. 14. Compare and contrast epistemological theories concerning the source, extent and limits of knowledge. 15. Analyze different systems of government, focusing especially on their justifications and their assumptions about human nature.
Major Topics:	I. Nature and Purpose of Philosophy (6 hours, lecture) A. Problem of Defining Philosophy B. Relation of Philosophy to Science and Religion C. Examples of Classical and Modern Philosophers II. Metaphysics (16 hours, lecture) A. The Nature of Metaphysical Claims B. Arguments for God's Existence C. Arguments Against God's Existence D. Determinism and Free Will E. Mind-Body Problem F. The Nature of Personal Identity III. Epistemology (16 hours, lecture) A. Nature and Limits of Knowledge B. Descartes' Methodological Skepticism C. Hume's Problem of Induction D. Sources of Knowledge 1. Rationalism 2. Empiricism E. Theories of Truth 1. Correspondence 2. Coherence

	3. Pragmatism IV. Axiology (16 hours, lecture) A. Ethics and Social Philosophy 1. Ethical Theories - Duty, Consequentialist, and Virtue Ethics 2. Egoism, Relativism, and Objectivism 3. Justice and Discrimination B. Political Philosophy: Capitalism and Communism
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the chapter in your textbook on epistemology. In a three- to five-page essay, write a critical comparative analysis of rationalism and empiricism. Include in your analysis a comparison of the epistemic and practical implications of each of these epistemological theories.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a three- to five-page essay, construct an analytical argument that addresses how a determinist might respond to an existentialist's accusation that the determinist is providing an excuse for, rather than an explanation of, human behavior.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a two- to five-page essay, select a contemporary moral issue such as abortion, universal health care, or same sex marriage, and argue against the traditionalist view by taking and supporting an alternative perspective, such as a feminist, Taoist, socialist, or a minority perspective.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Steven M. Cahn, ed. The World of Philosophy. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford Press University Press, 2018. (Discipline standard)

	Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen, Elizabeth Harman, Seana Shiffrin, eds. The Norton Introduction to Philosophy. 2nd ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 2018. (Discipline standard) John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer, eds. Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings. 9th ed. Oxford University Press, 2021. Gary E. Kessler. Voices of Wisdom. 9th ed. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2015. (Discipline standard) Manuel Valasquez. Philosophy: A Text with Readings. 13th ed. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2016. (Discipline standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for ENGL C1000
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.

each skill(s). If applicable	Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Philosophy Staff
Date:	01/01/1962
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Roberto Garcia
Date:	09/26/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026