



El Camino College  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

<b>Subject:</b>	PHIL
<b>Course Number:</b>	113
<b>Descriptive Title:</b>	Contemporary Philosophy
<b>Division:</b>	Behavioral and Social Sciences
<b>Department:</b>	Philosophy
<b>Course Disciplines:</b>	Philosophy
<b>Catalog Description:</b>	This course addresses the main themes and ideas of 19th and 20th century philosophy. In addition to major contributions in the philosophy of language and ethics, some of the major philosophical movements covered include existentialism, phenomenology, analytic philosophy and logical positivism, pragmatism, plus post-modernism and post-structuralism.
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	
<b>Co-requisite:</b>	
<b>Recommended Preparation:</b>	English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
<b>Enrollment Limitation:</b>	
<b>Course Length:</b>	Full Term
<b>Hours Lecture (per week):</b>	3
<b>Hours Laboratory (per week):</b>	0
<b>Outside Study Hours:</b>	6
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54
<b>Course Units:</b>	3
<b>Grading Method:</b>	Letter Grade only
<b>Credit Status:</b>	Credit, degree applicable
<b>Transfer CSU:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/15/2014
<b>Transfer UC:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Proposed
<b>General Education: ECC</b>	Area 3 - Humanities
<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2015
<b>Other:</b>	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	
<b>IGETC:</b>	Area 3B - Humanities
<b>Term:</b>	

<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p><b>SLO #1 Recent Philosophical Ideas</b></p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of some of the more recent philosophical ideas in areas such as ethics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language.</p> <p><b>SLO #2 Leading Philosophers of the 19th and 20th Centuries</b></p> <p>Students will be able to explain the positions and arguments of the leading philosophers of the 19th and 20th Centuries.</p> <p><b>SLO #3 Main Contemporary Philosophical Movements</b></p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of and distinguish between the main Contemporary philosophical movements, including Existentialism, Phenomenology, Analytic Philosophy and Logical Positivism, Pragmatism, plus Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism.</p>
<b>Course Objectives:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate mastery of critical philosophical skills based on readings of primary texts to accurately interpret and present the positions of 19th and 20th Century philosophers.</li> <li>2. Critically analyze and evaluate arguments, assumptions, principles, and methods of 19th and 20th Century philosophers.</li> <li>3. Understand and evaluate some of the seminal writings on ethics over the last 200 years, such as Mill's Utilitarianism and Rawls' views on societal justice, and be able to distinguish these positions from earlier and/or competing views.</li> <li>4. Describe the Analytic movement of philosophy, with attention to the works of the Logical Positivists, and explain how it challenges all metaphysical beliefs.</li> <li>5. Understand the main ideas of the Existentialist movement, and describe how later Existentialist thinkers built upon the ideas of earlier Existentialist thinkers.</li> <li>6. Critically assess the similarities and differences between the various thinkers in the Existentialist movement, including such philosophers as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Beauvoir, and Sartre.</li> <li>7. Understand and describe the basic tenets of Phenomenalism.</li> <li>8. Explain and describe the basic tenets of Post-Modernism and Post-Structuralism, and assess how these philosophies depart from earlier ways of doing philosophy.</li> <li>9. Understand and assess the major views in philosophy of language and linguistics, such as those espoused by Carnap, Chomsky, Wittgenstein, Russell, and/or Kripke.</li> <li>10. Describe and evaluate the recent thinking and areas of contention in the field of philosophy of mind, as typified in the works of Searle.</li> </ol>
<b>Major Topics</b>	<p><b>I. Hegel (2 hours, lecture)</b></p> <p>A. Spirit and Reason</p> <p>B. The Inevitability of Progress</p> <p><b>II. Schopenhauer (2 hours, lecture)</b></p> <p>A. The Will</p> <p>B. The Individual and the Species</p>

**III. Mill (4 hours, lecture)**

- A. Utilitarianism
- B. Liberty and Limited Government
- C. Women's Rights

**IV. Marx (2 hours, lecture)**

- A. The Inevitability of Communism
- B. Pros and Cons of Capitalism and Communism

**V. Kierkegaard (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Existentialist Themes
- B. The Importance of the Individual
- C. Subjective Truth, Faith, and Passion Versus Objective Truth
- D. Questioning the Herd/Community
- E. Challenges to Traditional Christianity

**VI. Nietzsche (6 hours, lecture)**

- A. Perspectivism and Nihilism
- B. Attack on Religion and Christianity
- C. The Ubermensch and Eternal Recurrence
- D. Passions and Emotions Over Reason

**VII. Heidegger (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Authenticity Versus Inauthenticity
- B. Angst
- C. Death

**VIII. Sartre (4 hours, lecture)**

- A. Responsibility
- B. Bad Faith

**IX. Phenomenalism (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Brentano

B. Husserl

**X. American Pragmatism (4 hours, lecture)**

A. Peirce

B. James

**XI. Analytic Philosophy (3 hours, lecture)**

A. Carnap: Attack on Metaphysics and Ethics

B. Ayers: Attacks on Metaphysics and Ethics

C. Wittgenstein: Language

**XII. Russell (2 hours, lecture)**

A. Attack on Metaphysics

B. The Value of Philosophy

**XIII. Rawls (2 hours, lecture)**

A. Social Contract

B. Veil of Ignorance

C. Societal Justice and Paternalism

**XIV. Nozick (3 hours, lecture)**

A. Libertarianism

B. The Experience Machine

**XV. Nagel (3 hours, lecture)**

A. What is it Like to be a Bat?

B. Moral Luck

**XVI. Searle: The Philosophy of Mind**

A. The Mind-Body Problem and Free Will

B. Can Computers Think?

**XVII. Post Modernism and Post Structuralism (5 hours, lecture)**

A. Foucault

	B. Derrida C. Habermas
<b>Total Lecture Hours:</b>	54
<b>Total Laboratory Hours:</b>	0
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54
<b>Primary Method of Evaluation</b>	1) Substantial writing assignments
<b>Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:</b>	What are the bases of Nietzsche's attacks on Christianity? In a three-page essay, state some replies the Christian might make to such attacks.
<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 1:</b>	In a two- to four-page essay, compare and contrast two of the Existentialist Philosophers on the issue of authenticity versus inauthenticity. Which view do you prefer, and what are the reasons for your preference?
<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 2:</b>	The Analytic Philosophers have tended to attack beliefs of both the objectivity of ethics and the existence of metaphysical things. Pick one of the Analytic Philosophers, in a three- to five-page essay, set forth their views and arguments on either ethics or metaphysics, and then point out possible responses to their position. Which side of the debate do you think has the better arguments and the stronger support, and why?
<b>Other Evaluation Methods:</b>	Class Performance, Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
<b>Instructional Methods:</b>	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
<b>If other:</b>	
<b>Work Outside of Class:</b>	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
<b>If Other:</b>	
<b>Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:</b>	Derek Parfit, <u>Contemporary Philosophy: On What Matters</u> , Oxford University Press, 2017.  Louis Pojman, <u>The Twentieth Century, Classics of Philosophy</u> , 1st ed., Oxford University Press, 2000. Discipline Standard  Louis Pojman, <u>Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, Classics of Philosophy Volume II</u> , 1st ed., Oxford University Press, 1998. Discipline Standard  Forrest E. Baird, <u>Philosophic Classics, Volume IV: 19th Century Philosophy</u> , 3rd ed., Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2003. Discipline Standard  Forrest E. Baird, <u>Philosophic Classics, Volume V: 20th Century Philosophy</u> , 3rd ed., Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2003. Discipline Standard  Daniel Kolak and Garrett Thomson, <u>Longman Standard History of 19th Century Philosophy</u> , 1st ed., Pearson, 2008. Discipline Standard  Daniel Kolak and Garrett Thomson, <u>Longman Standard History of 20th Century Philosophy, 1st ed.</u> , Pearson, 2006. Discipline Standard
<b>Alternative Textbooks:</b>	

<b>Required Supplementary Readings:</b>	
<b>Other Required Materials:</b>	
<b>Requisite:</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	
<b>Requisite course:</b>	
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):</b> <b>Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	
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<b>Requisite and Matching Skill(s):</b> <b>Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable</b>	
<b>Requisite course:</b>	English 1 or
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):</b> <b>Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	<b>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing written reports, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</b> ENGL 1 - Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. ENGL 1 - Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
<b>Requisite:</b>	eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):</b> <b>Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable</b>	This course involves reading college level textbooks, writing assignments, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.
<b>Enrollment Limitations and Category:</b>	
<b>Enrollment Limitations Impact:</b>	
<b>Course Created by:</b>	Randall Firestone
<b>Date:</b>	02/24/2014
<b>Board Approval Date:</b>	12/15/2014
<b>Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:</b>	Randy Firestone