

## Philosophy 2

### *Introduction to Philosophy*

3 units; 3 hours lecture

Recommended Preparation: eligibility for English 1A

Credit, degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC

This course examines the main areas of philosophy, which include ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Students will explore values and beliefs, moral actions, freedom, the soul and God, and what constitutes a fulfilling life.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Explain and differentiate three main areas of philosophy: ethics, epistemology and metaphysics.
2. 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.
3. Assess and explain perspectives and outlooks on life that are beyond traditional societal paradigms, such as minority, feminist and Taoist perspectives.
4. Distinguish between normative and descriptive ethics.
5. Explain the difference between duty ethics and consequentialism, and illustrate this difference by applying the theories to an ethical problem.
6. Differentiate moral relativism from moral objectivism, and explain their relationship to contemporary moral issues.
7. Discuss and analyze what constitutes a good and fulfilling life, such as the roles of money and happiness.
8. Analyze philosophical writing for its logical structure, coherence and acceptability, utilizing standard philosophical measures.
9. 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.
10. Clarify the difference between conviction, belief and knowledge.
11. Compare and contrast epistemological theories concerning the source, extent and limits of knowledge.
12. Analyze different systems of government, focusing especially on their justifications and their assumptions about human nature.
13. Compare the conflict between the ideals of equality and security with individualism and liberty.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** In a written assignment or oral discussion, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the major areas of philosophy and use that knowledge to analyze classic and/or contemporary issues in metaphysics, epistemology, axiology and/or political philosophy.

**ADA Statement:** El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.