

COURSE OUTLINE

Philosophy 120 (C-ID Number: PHIL 140)
History of Philosophy: Modern Period (C-ID Title: History of Modern Philosophy)

I. Catalog Statement

Philosophy 120 is a critical study of the philosophic systems and ideas of the early modern period that have had a dominant impact on Western civilization, with special emphasis on Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 101

II. Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays;
2. use organized, detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements;
3. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. read short primary texts with comprehension;
2. write discursive/exploratory essays which summarize and argue for a philosophical position;
3. sustain informed, engaged, and tolerant critical discussions;
4. identify and cogently summarize some of the philosophical theories of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant;
5. speak and write intelligently about some modern philosophical issues;
6. develop the skills to listen carefully to opposing viewpoints and to offer a philosophical response to them.

IV. Course Content Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48

- | | |
|--|----------|
| A. Introduction to Modern Philosophy | 4 hours |
| 1. Goal of clear, rational, non-biased thinking | |
| 2. Historical periods of philosophy and major modern figures | |
|
 | |
| B. Continental Rationalism | 16 hours |
| 1. Descartes | |
| 2. Spinoza | |
| 3. Leibniz | |
|
 | |
| C. British Empiricism | 16 hours |
| 1. Locke | |
| 2. Berkeley | |
| 3. Hume | |
|
 | |
| D. Kant | 12 hours |

V. Methods of Instruction

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and class discussions;
2. group discussion;
3. small group projects and presentations;
4. multi-media presentations.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. five-to-ten page papers attempting to solve a philosophical problem (e.g. “How do humans get knowledge?”)
2. construction of careful, sustained and useful critiques of peer’s first drafts (e.g. restate a thesis such as “All knowledge is derived from sense-experience”, raise unaddressed questions, construct plausible counter-examples to the thesis- such as universal laws of nature and scientific theories that refer to unobservable entities such as electrons);
3. rethinking and rewriting papers in response to criticism (e.g. consider a given counter-example, draw out its implications, and revise the theory or argument in response);
4. group work preparation for graded group work presentations (e.g. divide essays amongst groups, meet to discuss arguments for each position, present as a debate; for example, Rationalist arguments for God’s existence vs Hume’s arguments against God’s existence).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. regularly scheduled in-class essays;

2. final examination.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Kenny, Anthony. *The Rise of Modern Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University, 2008. Print.

13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN 978-0198752769

Pojman, Louis. *Classics of Philosophy, Volume II: Modern and Contemporary*. Oxford: Oxford University, 1998. Print.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN 0195116461

Martinich, Aloysius, Fritz Allhoff, and Anand Vaidya., eds. *Early Modern Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007. Print.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN 978-1405135672

Radcliffe, Elizabeth, Richard McCarty, Fritz Allhoff, and Anand Vaidya., eds. *Late Modern Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007. Print.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN 978-1405146890

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework the student will be able to:

1. summarize accurately many of the philosophical theories defended by the most important modern philosophers (including Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant);
2. give specific examples to support or oppose giving specific answers to various philosophical questions that were debated by early modern philosophers;
3. apply the philosophical concepts and arguments of early modern thinkers to present-day issues and practices.