

**College of San Mateo  
Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** PHIL 100    **TITLE:** Introduction to Philosophy    **C-ID:** PHIL 100  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
    Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ENGL 105.
  
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities  
**CSU GE:**  
    CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)  
**IGETC:**  
    IGETC Area 3: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: B: Humanities
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
    Introductory survey of philosophical questions about the nature of reality; the prospects for human knowledge; and moral, political, and religious issues. Intended to help students clarify their own thinking about such questions through learning and discussing how philosophers have dealt with them.
  
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods.
  2. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions.
  3. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues.
  4. Identify, explicate and evaluate complex arguments.
  5. Analyze a philosophical position in terms of different cultural/social perspectives.
  6. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.
  
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods.
  2. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions.
  3. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues.
  4. identify, explicate, and evaluate complex arguments.
  5. Analyze a philosophical position in terms of different cultural / social perspectives.
  6. Identify some of the central figures and main issues in the history of philosophy.
  7. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.
  
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**  
    This class will focus on the study of philosophical ideas and methods through the critical examination of primary texts from philosophy.  
    These methods should include:  
    Argumentation and argument identification and evaluation  
    Conceptual analysis  
    Analysis and evaluation of fundamental assumptions, principles and reasoning processes of various philosophical systems  
    Philosophical interpretation and critical reading of primary texts  
    The various branches of Philosophy:  
    Epistemology

Metaphysics  
Theory of Self / Minds / Persons  
Political Philosophy  
Morality and Ethics  
Philosophy of Religion

#### 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Discussion
- D. Guest Speakers
- E. Individualized Instruction

#### 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

##### **Writing Assignments:**

Exams: Study questions for all three exams will be given to students prior to the exam. The exam will be taken from these questions. Responses to each study question are intended to be between 2-3 pages (around 500 words) in a Blue Book. Students are encouraged to work together in studying for the exams.

##### **Reading Assignments:**

Readings will be assigned regularly for the text and may include additional articles or books. The majority of readings will be primary texts.

Reading Quizzes: To motivate students to do their reading on time, there will be occasional reading quizzes. Quizzes will cover the previous nights assigned reading and will be exegetical sorts of questions.

##### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate in the classroom discussions. They are strongly encouraged to share their perspective with the rest of the class and to be respectful of other's points of view.

#### 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Homework
- E. Papers
- F. Projects
- G. Quizzes
- H. Research Projects
- I. Written examination
- J. Through assignments and in-class examinations the students will write short and long answers to questions regarding the material. They will begin with identifying main arguments. They will incorporate those ideas into subsequent papers that rely on the earlier work. They will include terms and structures which demonstrate their correct use of the concepts. This will correspond to major ideas and major philosophical theories.

#### 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Feinberg, Joel. *Reason and Responsibility*, 15 ed. Cengage, 2013
- B. Kessler, Gary. *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*, 9th ed. Cengage, 2016
- C. Valasquez, Manuel. *Philosophy: A Text With Readings*, 13th ed. Cengage, 2017
- D. Mitchell, Helen Buss. *Roots of Wisdom: A Tapestry of Philosophical Traditions*, 7th ed. Cengage, 2018
- E. Gideon Rosen, Alex Byrne, et al.. *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy*, 2 ed. Norton, 2018

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** December 2020

**Effective Term:** Fall 2021

**Course Originator:** Jeremy Ball