COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

COURSE NUMBER: PHL 101

CREDITS: 3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces the student to the major branches of philosophy and fundamentals of philosophical method. Readings may include works from the philosophy of ethics, politics, religion, ontology, knowledge, and aesthetics.

PREREQUISITE(S): ENG* 102

COURSE OUTCOMES:

General Education Competencies Satisfied:
HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

☒ **SOPX**   **Social Phenomena Knowledge & Understanding II**
                            (not within the fields of anthropology, psychology or sociology)

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

☐ **ORAX**   **Oral Communication in English**
☐ **HISX**   **Historical Knowledge & Understanding**
☐ **SCRX**   **Scientific Reasoning**

Embedded Competency(ies):

ED   **Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind (Outcomes ☒ 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒4)**

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):
☒ **HUM**   **Humanities elective**

Course objectives:
General Education Goals and Outcomes:
☒ **Social Phenomena Knowledge & Understanding I and II**: Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's, or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational, or cultural means.

Embedded Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind: Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

1. ☒ Respond critically to ethical issues.
2. ☒ Apply appropriate concepts and terminology in identifying ethical problems, proposing and defending solutions to them.
3. ☒ Apply standards and practices of scholarship, research, and documentation to defend positions and beliefs, including reevaluating beliefs in light of unforeseen implications or new evidence.
4. ☒ Recognize the value of creative, collaborative, and innovative approaches to problem-solving, including the ability to acknowledge differing points of view.

COURSE-SPECIFIC:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of philosophy as field of inquiry grounded in particular historical and/or textual traditions.

2. Analyze the works of key contributors drawn from a variety of historical periods and subfields (moral philosophy, ethics, metaphysics, ontology, epistemology, logic, aesthetics, political philosophy, et al.)

3. Identify the central issue(s) in a given philosophical work (e.g., virtue, happiness, truth, knowledge, right action, pleasure, beauty, law).

4. Demonstrate how a philosopher's perspective or one's own perspective on a representative philosophical issue applies to socio-political or ethical issues regarding individuals, groups, cultures, and/or one's own life.

5. Explore philosophical issues and argument across a range of cultural production, which may include texts, visual art, theater, film, public rhetoric, and others.

6. Articulate a clear philosophical position in discussion and writing that integrates textual analysis and/or the perspectives of others.

7. Write examinations and papers that demonstrate understanding of Standard English grammar and mechanics, proper MLA citations, and clear rhetorical choices regarding style and structure appropriate to the assignment.

COURSE CONTENT, such topics as**:**

I. Philosophical History and Traditions

  A. Definition of philosophy and its subfields

  B. The role and purpose of philosophy as an academic discipline

  C. Overview of representative philosophical writers and their concerns such as the

    following: Zeno, Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Bingen, Descartes, Rousseau, Kant,

    Nietzsche, Hegel, Heidegger, Freud, Benjamin, Wittgenstein, Sartre, Dewey, Niebuhr,

    Fanon, de Beauvoir, Rorty, Foucault, Derrida, Levinas, Spivak, Butler, Bhabha, bell

    hooks, Lindemann, Fanon, Wittig, Bingen or others.

II. Philosophical Methods

  A. Reading strategies for complex texts (recursive reading, background reading, annotation

    techniques, summary, explication, figurative language, imagery, conventions of text

    citation, et al.)

  B. Elements of philosophical argument

    1. Defining the question at issue

    2. Differentiating facts, inferences, and judgments

    3. Identifying assumptions and fallacies

    4. Deduction and induction

     5.   Writing stylistics and academic conventions

III. Contemporary Application of Philosophical Questions and Concerns

    A. Freedom and subjective agency: Am I free to choose? What is causality's role in this?

    B. Ontology and metaphysics: How does one "be"? What is matter? Who am I?

    God: Does God exist? What are the implications of providence or lack thereof?

    C. Morality: What is right? Are "good" and "evil" universal?

    D. Politics: What/Whom should I obey? Is conflict inherent in humans? Should I think of myself or others first?

    E. Epistemology: How do I know what I know? What does a philosopher do?

    F. Aesthetics: What is art? What is beauty?