

# PHIL-101H: HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: PHIL-101H : Honors Introduction to Philosophy**

**Board of Trustees:**

January 2021

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2021

**Subject Code**

PHIL - Philosophy

**Course Number:**

101H

**Title:**

Honors Introduction to Philosophy

**Catalog Description:**

Introduction to basic concepts, reasoning skills, and attitudes employed in philosophical inquiry. Study and analysis of perennial philosophical problems through critical examination of writings of classical and contemporary philosophers. Emphasis on an in-depth study of primary sources within philosophical tradition. Prepares students for further work in philosophy and any area of learning requiring reasoned views.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

Eligibility for ENG-101H Honors College Composition I, or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Research and analyze complex philosophical ideas, theories, and perspectives fairly, objectively, and critically. Assessments of philosophical arguments will be rational and evidence based. Effectively explain philosophical arguments and construct your own arguments and ideas.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss the concept of philosophy from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. This should include evaluating the objectivity and reliability of philosophic thought.
2. Explain the relationship between life, culture, values and reflection on questions of ultimate philosophical concern.
3. Discuss and evaluate arguments various philosophers use in support of their philosophic positions.
4. Identify and describe the broadest subfields of philosophy including ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, legal and political philosophy, critical thinking, aesthetics and the history of philosophy.
5. Demonstrate the effect philosophy has had on major social and historical trends and how these trends effect current national and global issues.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Writing expository essays and persuasive arguments about philosophical theories and problems. The student will produce writing that is clear and concise, uses standard rules of written language, and effectively organizes language, images, and other symbols.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss the concept of philosophy from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. This should include evaluating the objectivity and reliability of philosophic thought.
  2. Use primary source documents in the discipline, identify and analyze philosophical problems and then develop, evaluate, and prioritize possible solutions. Understand and evaluate arguments various philosophers use in support of their philosophic positions.
  3. Identify and describe the broadest subfields of philosophy including ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, legal and political philosophy, critical thinking, aesthetics and the history of philosophy.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Student performance in class discussion and/or
2. Practical application of concepts
3. Conferences with students and/or
4. Mentoring activities and/or
5. Homework exercises and/or
6. Periodic exams throughout the semester and/or
7. Midterm and final exams: long essay format and/or
8. Short papers and/or
9. In class presentations and/or
10. Term papers

**Course Content Outline:**

1. The branches of philosophy
  - a. Epistemology
  - b. Metaphysics
  - c. Ethics
  - d. Logic
2. Definitions of
  - a. ethics
  - b. existentialism
  - c. aesthetics
  - d. epistemology
  - e. metaphysics
  - f. logic
  - g. social/political philosophy
    - i. Illustration of each branch by discussing a question or problem central to it
    - ii. Philosophy and further studies including philosophy courses beyond Philosophy- 101H
3. Methods for the activities: Thinking critically about philosophical issues
  - a. Identifying and analyzing philosophical problems
  - b. Evaluating the objectivity of information
  - c. Inquiring into solutions to philosophical problems
  - d. Presenting and evaluating supporting arguments for solutions
4. The nature of philosophical problems and issues
  - a. What is the nature of knowledge?
    - i. Problems with epistemological arguments
  - b. What is the nature of metaphysics?
    - i. Problems with metaphysical arguments
  - c. What is the difference between right and wrong? How do we apply to social and cultural issues?
5. Logical relations between issue statements: contraries and contradictories
6. Philosophical inquiry as activity
  - a. an inquiry model
  - b. types of concepts
  - c. the relationship between problems of meaning and problems of truth

- i. Proof by observation and proof by example and counter-example
  - ii. True by definition and true by logical form
- 7. Example problem: What is the nature of knowledge?
- 8. Introduction to problems of knowledge
- 9. Plato and questions of knowledge
  - a. Brief biography of Plato
  - b. Plato's relationship with Socrates.
  - c. The life of Socrates
  - d. The Euthyphro
  - e. The Apology
  - f. The Crito
  - g. The death of Socrates
  - h. Virtue is knowledge
  - i. Shadow and Substance
  - j. The Ideal Republic
  - k. The doctrine of two worlds
  - l. The theory of forms
  - m. The doctrine of recollection
  - n. The divided line
  - o. The Allegory of the Cave
  - p. Platonic virtues
  - q. The relationship between religion and ethics
  - r. Natural law
  - s. The tri-part soul
  - t. Immortality of the soul
    - i. Descartes and the transition to the Modern World
    - ii. Rationalism, and Knowledge
  - u. Brief biography of Descartes
  - v. Doubting to believe
  - w. The skeptical question
  - x. Cartesian methods including methodical doubt
  - y. The criterion of indubitability and cogito ergo sum
  - z. Human mind vs human body
  - aa. The wax example
  - bb. Proof of God's existence
  - cc. Why God is not a deceiver
  - dd. Body and Soul
  - ee. Clearness and distinctness of ideas
  - ff. The clockwork universe
  - gg. Why we make mistakes
  - hh. How to refrain from mistakes
    - i. Locke, Berkeley and Hume,
    - ii. Empiricism, and knowledge
  - ii. Brief biography of British Empiricist
  - jj. How do you know?
  - kk. Argument against innate ideas
    - ll. Sensation, perception, and kinds of ideas
  - mm. Analysis of causation
  - nn. Body and soul
  - oo. Skepticism and the problem of induction
  - pp. Reason: "Slave of the Passions"
  - qq. The psychological association of ideas
  - rr. Will the sun rise tomorrow?
- 10. Example problem: How do we determine right from wrong actions?
- 11. Introduction to the problems of conduct
- 12. Egoism vs altruism
- 13. Act Utilitarian processes

14. Bentham's Utilitarianism
15. Mill's version of Utilitarianism
  - a. Brief biography of Mill
  - b. The utility principle in contrast with other principles
  - c. Mill's responses to criticisms
  - d. Sanctions in support of the principle of utility
  - e. Proof of the principle of utility
  - f. The connection between utility and justice
  - g. Act utilitarianism vs Rule utilitarianism
  - h. The utilitarian conception of punishment
  - i. Preference Utilitarianism
    - i. Kant's ethical theory
  - j. Brief biography of Kant
  - k. The Enlightenment
    - l. The pure concept of understanding
  - m. The Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals
  - n. The rational component
  - o. Good will, moral value, and right actions
  - p. Duty determines good will
  - q. Duty, the moral law, and the categorical imperative
  - r. Autonomy, Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
    - i. Nietzsche and skepticism
  - s. Brief biography of Nietzsche
  - t. Strengths and weaknesses of skepticism
  - u. Master morality vs slave morality
  - v. Beyond good and evil
  - w. Nietzschean attack on traditional morality
  - x. Nietzschean attack on traditional theories of truth
  - y. Overman and eternal recurrence
  - z. The death of God
  - aa. The ascetic ideal
  - bb. Science as the replacement of religion
  - cc. The self-overcoming of science
    - i. Karl Marx
  - dd. The Young Hegelian
  - ee. Alienated man
    - ff. The conflict of classes
  - gg. The world to come
  - hh. Communist Manifesto
16. Phenomenology and Existentialism
  - a. Husserl
  - b. Heidegger
  - c. Hegel
17. Jean Paul Sartre
  - a. Being and Nothingness
  - b. My Existence is Absurd
  - c. Marx and Sartre
  - d. Bad Faith
  - e. Nausea
  - f. Condemned to be free
  - g. No Exit
18. The Twentieth Century Cultural Context:
  - a. Science and in Philosophy
  - b. Language and Experience
  - c. Contemporary connections
  - d. Pragmatism
  - e. The nature of Inquiry
  - f. The theory of meaning

- g. Truth and reality
- h. William James
- i. John Dewey
- j. Bertrand Russell
- k. Wittgenstein
  - l. Analytic philosophy
    - i. Woman in Philosophy
- 19. m. Global Philosophy
- 20. Philosophy of Mind

## Resources

Anthony Kenny. *A New History of Western Philosophy*. Oxford University Press USA, 2012.

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Samuel Guttenplan, Jennifer Hornsby, Christopher Janaway, John Schwenkler. *Reading Philosophy Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners*. 2nd. Wiley Blackwell, 2020.

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John Chaffee. *The Philosopher's Way*. 5th Ed. Pearson, 2016.

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Gary E. Kessler. *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*. 9th. New York Wadsworth, 2015.

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David E. Cooper. *World Philosophies: A Historical Introduction*. 2nd Ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2002.

---

Flew, Anthony, ed. *A Dictionary of Philosophy*. 2nd ed. New York: St. Martin's, 1984.

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The Republic: Plato. *By Benjamin Jowett*. CreateSpace Publishing, 2014.

---

Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1980.

---

Hume. *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. Oxford University Press, 1955.

---

Mill. *On Liberty*. New York: Broadview Press, 1999.

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Nietzsche. *Beyond Good and Evil*. New York: Vintage Books, 1966.

---

Nietzsche. *On The Genealogy of Morals*. Vintage Books, 1966.

---

Plato. *The Last Days of Socrates*. New York: Penguin Classics, 1993.

---

Plato. *Symposium*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1989.

---

Sartre. *Existentialism and Human Emotions*. New York: Citadel Press, 1957.

---

Sartre. *Transcendence of the Ego*. New York: Noonday, 1957.

---

Russell, Bertrand. *A History of Western Philosophy*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

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Nietzsche. *The Gay Science*. New York: Vintage Books, 1974.

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### Resources Other

**Web Resource- Videos** in all topic areas <http://www.wi-phi.com/resources> (<http://www.wi-phi.com/resources/>)

**Free Logic & Critical Thinking Textbook:** [https://1drv.ms/b/s!AtFVVmZS1dZ1gt0hRr\\_H\\_nYjgV9pJA?e=IY5xEU](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AtFVVmZS1dZ1gt0hRr_H_nYjgV9pJA?e=IY5xEU) ([https://1drv.ms/b/s!AtFVVmZS1dZ1gt0hRr\\_H\\_nYjgV9pJA?e=IY5xEU](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AtFVVmZS1dZ1gt0hRr_H_nYjgV9pJA?e=IY5xEU))

**Introductory Essays** <https://1000wordphilosophy.com/all-essays/>

**Careers in Philosophy** <https://www.apaonline.org/page/data> (<https://www.apaonline.org/page/data/>)

**Diversity Reading List** <https://diversityreadinglist.org/category/4-history/20th-century-philosophy/>

**Podcast: 5 Reasons To Major in Philosophy** <https://criticalthinkeracademy.com/courses/special-topics/lectures/51628> (<https://criticalthinkeracademy.com/courses/special-topics/lectures/51628/>)

**Top Ten Films in all Genres** <https://www.afi.com/afis-10-top-10/>

**2 Minute Animated Videos** <https://youtu.be/cYC74mJ-4po> (<https://youtu.be/cYC74mJ-4po/>)

### Instructional Services

#### OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMAH and Transfer Assurance Guide OAH045

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