MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

Faculty are required to have the outline submitted to the Academic Affairs Office. The course outline is the form used for approval of new courses by the Collegewide Curriculum Committee.

DEPT. Philosophy COURSE NO. PHIL 1101

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

COURSE TITLE Introduction to Philosophy

CATALOG DESCRIPTION Introduction to Philosophy introduces students to four or five areas of philosophical inquiry and the questions basic to each: ethics (What is the nature of the good?), epistemology (What is the nature of knowledge and truth?), metaphysics (What is the nature of reality?), and social/political theory (What is the nature of a good state?). Using primary texts and class discussion, students will explore the answers philosophers such as Plato, Mill, Kant, Hume, Locke, and Nietzsche have offered.

AUDIENCE Any student with an “inquiring mind” will enjoy this class.

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (Leave blank if not applicable)
Area: 6 : by meeting the following competencies: b, c, d, e
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PREREQUISITES OR NECESSARY ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE:

LENGTH OF COURSE Fifteen Weeks

THIS COURSE IS USUALLY OFFERED:
Every other year ☐ fall XX spring XX summer ☐ undetermined ☐

Four goals are emphasized in course at Minnesota West Community & Technical College:

1) ACADEMIC CONTENT: The academic objectives of this class are:
   a. To examine the nature of reality.
   b. To analyze how different philosophers and schools of thought have approached different areas (epistemology, metaphysics, and axiology) of reality.
   c. To explore how different cultures have examined the major questions posed my western philosophy.
2) **THINKING SKILLS:** This course will help students improve the effectiveness of their thinking skills through:
   a. Being exposed to various forms of thought about the same idea.
   b. Comparing different value systems.
   c. Analyzing various cultural answers to the major areas of philosophy.

3) **COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS:** This course will help students improve their oral and written communication skills through:
   a. Written reports.
   b. Emphasized critical reading and listening skills.
   c. In depth class discussions.

4) **HUMAN DIVERSITY:** This course will help students recognize, understand, and appreciate human diversity through:
   a. Confronting cultural differences in regard to the major philosophical issues.
   b. Studying the complex situations faced by these philosophical dilemmas.

**TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

| a. Why Philosophy | f. Truth Test |
| b. Reality and Being | g. Aesthetics |
| c. Human Nature | h. Political Philosophy |
| d. Philosophy and God | i. Social Philosophy |
| e. Knowledge Sources |

**LIST OF EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:** Students will learn the fundamentals of the questions philosophers have been asking for over two thousand years in the areas of what it truth, what is beauty, what is the right way to live, is there a God and can we know anything for certain.

**LEARNING/TEACHING TECHNIQUES** used in the course are:

- **XX** Collaborative Learning  
- **XX** Problem Solving  
- **XX** Interactive Lectures  
- **XX** Individual Coaching  
- **XX** Films/Videos/Slides  
- Other (describe below)

**ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THIS CLASS INCLUDE:**

- **XX** Reading  
- **XX** Tests  
- **XX** Oral Presentations  
- **XX** Worksheets  
- **XX** Textbook Problems  
- **XX** Collaborative Projects  
- **XX** Papers  
- **XX** Term Paper  
- **XX** Portfolio  
- Other (describe below)

**EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will learn about the fundamental questions of philosophy, including, what is truth, what is beauty, what is the right way to live, is there a God and
can we know anything for certain. Students will also learn that various cultures have different thoughts concerning these questions.

The information in this course outline is subject to revision

To receive reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the campus Student Services Advisor or campus Disability Coordinator as arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to notify their instructor.

Veteran Services: Minnesota West is dedicated to assisting veterans and eligible family members in achieving their educational goals efficiently. Active duty and reserve/guard military members should advise their instructor of all regularly scheduled military appointments and duties that conflict with scheduled course requirements. Instructors will make every effort to work with the student to identify adjusted timelines. If you are a veteran, please contact the Minnesota West Veterans Service Office.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Student Services Advisor or by calling 800-658-2330 or Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 or by using your preferred relay service.

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