COMMON COURSE OUTLINE:  Course discipline/number/title:  PHIL 1114: Introduction to Philosophy

A.  CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number):  College Level Reading and Writing
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number):  None
5. MnTC Goals (if any):  Goal 2/Critical Thinking, Goal 6/The Humanities—the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 9/ Ethical and Civic Responsibility

This course is designed to introduce students to main fields of investigation of the problems of philosophy. Study will include principle methods and schools of philosophy and historical and contemporary views, with the goal of expanding students’ knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of philosophy. Particular attention will be given to the cultivation of critical reading and writing.

B.  DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year):  December, 2012

C.  OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. The nature of Philosophy
   a)  What is philosophy?
   b)  Globalization, multiculturalism and pluralism
   c)  Relativism/egoism
2. Logic
   a)  Reason and arguments
   b)  Deduction and induction
   c)  Logical fallacies
3. Ethics
   a)  The good life/how one ought to live
   b)  Right actions/how one ought to behave
   c)  Person and Character/who one ought to be
4. Aesthetics
   a)  The nature of art and beauty
   b)  Taste and culture
   c)  Experience
   d)  Transcendence
5. Metaphysics
   a)  The nature of reality
   b)  Time and space
   c)  Identity (who and what)
   d)  Philosophy of religion
6. Epistemology
   a)  The nature of knowledge
   b)  Opinion vs. knowledge
   c)  Justified true belief
   d)  Ways of knowing
7. Philosophy of Science
   a)  Scientific reasoning
   b)  Hypotheses and conjectures
   c)  The problem of induction

D.  LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL):  The student will be able to:
1.  Analyze abstract concepts.
2.  Identify the major areas of philosophical inquiry.
3.  Understand general forms of justification.
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to: Continued...
   4. Appreciate multiculturalism, understand other world views.
   5. Formulate their own philosophical positions and justify them according to the course material.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
   Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
   1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
   2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
   3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
   4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:
   1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
   2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
   3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:
   1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
   2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
   3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
   4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
   5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
   1. Papers
   2. Tests and Quizzes
   3. Journals
   4. Service learning projects

G. RTCI CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:
   ☑ Communication
   ☑ Critical Thinking
   ☑ Global Awareness/Diversity
   ☑ Civic Responsibility
   ☑ Personal/Professional Accountability
   ☑ Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None