

## Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 1114: Introduction to Philosophy

### A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. **Credits:** 3
2. **Hours/Week:** 3
3. **Prerequisites (Course discipline/number):** None
4. **Other requirements:** None
5. **MnTC Goals (if any):** Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 8/Global Perspectives

**B. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces students to the main problems and methods of philosophy. Significant areas of focus include ethical and aesthetic values, the nature of reality and knowledge, logic and critical reasoning, and global history of philosophy. Students will come away with an expanded understanding of the human condition and human cultures, especially concerning behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of philosophy. They will have ample opportunity to practice and improve their abilities to read, write, and reason critically.

**C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year):** November, 2022

### D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Value Theory
  - a) Core concepts and principles
  - b) Types of value
  - c) Methods of evaluation
2. Epistemology and Metaphysics
  - a) Core concepts and principles
  - b) Standards and limits of knowledge
  - c) Ways in which cultural embeddedness affects theories of knowledge and reality
3. History of Philosophy
  - a) Survey of multiple philosophers or schools of philosophical thought
  - b) Historical context and/or development of philosophical thought across cultures and time
4. Logic and Philosophy of Science
  - a) Core concepts and principles
  - b) Standards of rational thought
  - c) Methods of critical thinking

**E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL):** The student will be able to:

1. Analyze and reflect on abstract philosophical concepts.
2. Identify the major areas of philosophical inquiry.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of general forms of justification and ability to evaluate arguments in the public sphere.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of multiculturalism and understanding of other worldviews.
5. Formulate and defend original philosophical positions.

### F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

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 8/Global Perspectives: The student will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements, which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizen's share for their common global future.

- G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:** Methods may include but are not limited to:
1. Papers
  2. Tests and Quizzes
  3. Journals
  4. Service learning projects
- H. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S).** This course contributes to the following RCTC Core Outcome(s)  
**Critical Thinking.** Students will think systematically and explore information thoroughly before accepting or formulating a position or conclusion.
- I. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):** None