

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 2 - Introduction to Philosophy

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level V; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is an introduction to the nature of philosophical thought and skills. Issues that traditionally have been of central importance in philosophical inquiry will be emphasized. These include the nature of knowledge (e.g., skepticism, truth, and scientific methodology), reality (e.g., free will, mind/body problem, existence of God), and values (relativism, foundation of morality).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze and evaluate philosophical viewpoints
- B. Appraise and assess the successes of philosophy vis-à-vis the other disciplines
- C. Compare and contrast the aims and methods of a wide spectrum of philosophers
- D. Discuss and explain some representative philosophical problems and the major alternative ways in which these problems can be resolved
- E. Formulate, construct and articulate their own position on a number of philosophical problems in light of what great philosophers have written

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

		Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>			<u>Hours</u>
1. Nature of philosophy			9.00
a. What is philosophy?			
b. Philosophical methods			
c. Areas and field in philosophy			
2. Epistemology			8.00
a. What is knowledge?			
b. What is truth?			
c. When is a belief rational or justified?			
d. Skepticism			
e. Empiricism vs. rationalism			
3. Philosophy of science			6.00
a. Scientific methodology			
b. The problem of induction			
c. Fact and value			
d. Instrumentalism vs. realism			
4. Free will and determinism			6.00
a. Statement of the problem			
b. Libertarianism			
c. Hard determinism			
d. Soft determinism or the consistency hypothesis			

5. Mind/body problem	6.00
a. Cartesian dualism	
b. Physicalism	
c. Personal identity	
6. Ethics	8.00
a. The foundation of morality	
b. Absolutism vs relativism	
7. Philosophy of religion	8.00
a. Attempts to prove the existence of God	
i. Ontological argument	
ii. Teleological argument	
iii. Cosmological argument	
iv. Moral argument	
b. Faith and reason	
c. The problem of evil	
i. Hume's statement of the problem	
ii. The Augustinian theodicy	
iii. The Irenaean theodicy	
Total Hours	51.00

IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Multimedia Presentations

V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Quizzes
- B. Portfolios
- C. Short papers
- D. Examinations
- E. Book reports
- F. Class Discussion
- G. Students will write at least 1,500 words. This requirement will be met either by essay examinations, take-home tests, short papers, or book reports. (Note: all written work will be evaluated on both its form and content.)

VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
- B. Writing Assignments
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Moore, B. & Bruder, K.. Philosophy: The Power of Ideas. 7 Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2008.
- B. Kessler, G. E.. Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader. 7 Edition. Wadsworth, 2008.

Created/Revised by: Daniel Barnett
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