

COURSE OUTLINE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

IQRA UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD

COURSE DESCRIPTION FORM

INSTITUTION: IQRA University, Islamabad Campus (A campus of IQRA University, Karachi)

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY & CRITICAL THINKING

Course Name	Introduction to Philosophy & Critical Thinking	Prepared on	Fall 2023
Course Code	IUIC_COURSE_SP24_115		
Credit Hours	3		
Course Prerequisite			
Prerequisite Code		Revised on	15/02/2024
Course Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Core course <input type="checkbox"/> Major		
Program	<input type="checkbox"/> BSS		
Semester	BSCS-2(A&B)		
Instructor	Wijdan Asif		

Course Description

This course is an introduction to philosophy & critical thinking that aims to make students more conscious, creative and critical in thinking about their own fundamental beliefs and values. Fundamental issues investigated include: the nature and possibility of knowledge, self-knowledge, the relationship between the mind and the body, the knowledge of other minds, understanding of critical thinking & its importance in philosophy, whether we have free will, and whether life has a meaning. Moreover, this course is an historical and thematic introduction to Philosophy emphasizing the historical development of the discipline and related issues in logic, ethics, metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of religion. It addresses such questions as, What is the difference between good and evil? What are the limits of intellectual knowledge? Does God exist? Am I essentially a free agent or a machine? Where am I ultimately headed? The course will familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of philosophy and some debatable philosophical issues through two stages. In the first stage, students will learn about Philosophy, subject matter, primary branches of philosophy, history of philosophy as practiced and conceived in ancient Greece (Plato and Aristotle), breakthrough contribution of Muslim Philosophers (Ibn e Arabi, Ibn e Sina, Ibn e Rushd, and Al Farabi) contributions to Philosophy by Philosophers of Religion in Catholic World (Augustine, Aquinas), Enlightenment philosophy (Descartes, Kant and Hume), modern philosophy (Logical Positivism) and finally Existential philosophy (Nietzsche and Heidegger).

Course Learning Outcomes		Program Goal						
Sr. No.		PG1	PG2	PG3	PG4	PG5	PG6	PG7

CLO1	To introduce major philosophies expounded by philosophers in eastern and western cultures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
CLO2	To explain how the basic questions raised by various philosophic systems are relevant to human beings in the contemporary world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
CLO3	To show how modern and non-modern kinds of philosophies are different and employ different methods of creating knowledge.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CLO4	To enable students to understand various philosophies by acquiring the foundational introduction of their contentions and controversies and enable them for critical thought.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CLO5	To enable students to think about the relationships of philosophic constructs to their own disciplines and life as-such.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
CLO6	To enable students to draw preliminary critical tools for philosophic thinking that are necessary to acquire for contemporary social science students.		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Teaching & Learning Methodology

Primarily, the course facilitator/teacher will focus on the effective delivery of the content of various thought systems to students. This delivery is meant to create a space for contemplating fundamental questions of existence and those of reality. Concepts like metaphysics, ontology, epistemology and logic are more than simple constructs and are actually related to our practices and affect our worldviews. Students will be exposed to various worldviews and be apprised on how adopting a philosophy has consequences for how we look at ourselves, the world and decide our life trajectories. An introduction to fundamental philosophic controversies in the post-enlightenment period of Europe will inculcate among students the capacity to understand the importance of alternative views in philosophy. Significant issues will be taught to students in order to build minds ready to grasp and grapple with emergent issues. Reading and thinking exercises will include brain storming sessions, question-answer sessions, thought-experiments and reflective exercises. These will include assignments, group projects, guest lectures will all contribute to experiential learning. Being a teacher and learner of Philosophy, I practise following pedagogical techniques as well:

1. Plan, Implement and Evaluate the philosophical knowledge
2. Maximum Class Participation/Discussion
3. Debate generation
4. Argument articulation
5. Presentations regarding Philosophy

6. Utilize lecture videos

Textbooks and References

- Mann, D. & Dann, E. G. (2005). *Philosophy: A New Introduction*. Holly J. Allen. USA.
- Gordon, H. S. (2002). *The history and philosophy of social science*. Routledge.
- Rosenberg. 2000. *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.
- Richards. 1996. *Philosophy of Social Science*, Prentice Hall Inc.
- Russell, B. (2013). *History of western philosophy: Collectors edition*. Routledge.
- Furthermore, supportive Audio-Visual material is recommended. Students are requested to please watch basic interviews of:
 - Various philosophers by Brian Magee, Manufacturing Intellect.
 - BBC Documentaries (series) on “Science and Islam”

Grading Policy

Assessment Instruments	Percentage
Quizzes	20%
Assignments	20%
Mid Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

Week-wise Course Outline

Week / Session	Contents	Activities	Learning objectives addressed
1 & 2	Orientation to the course outline and Philosophy What is Philosophy? Definitions of philosophy Wisdom and Knowledge Nature of Philosophy Subject Matter of Philosophy Fundamental Concepts of Religion, Science, Knowledge, Natural Science, Social Science Concept of Ultimate Truth,	Students will have the knowledge of philosophy as a discipline and its various definitions. They will also understand the significance of philosophy as a field, its meaning and the need for it in the contemporary world. Activity: Who AM I? (Self-Introspection) Lecture, and class discussion. Reading Material: Chapter 1 Mann, D. & Dann, E. G. (2005). <i>Philosophy: A New </i>	PLO 1, 2

	<p>Rational Justification and Meaning</p> <p>Origin of Philosophical Knowledge and Religious Belief and Rituals</p> <p>The Significance and purpose of Philosophical Knowledge in contemporary life.</p>	<i>Introduction.</i>		
3 & 4	<p>Definition & Explanation of Critical Thinking.</p> <p>Major Branches of philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Epistemology ● Ontology/Metaphysics ● Axiology/Moral Philosophy 	<p>Students will learn about major branches of philosophic knowledge along with critical thinking. They will understand how metaphysical and logical as well as epistemological decisions constitute every choice and normal utterances.</p> <p>Activity: PPT slides on Branches of Philosophy will be shared in the class. Lecture and class discussion. Reading on critical thinking.</p>	PLO 1, 2, 4	
5	<p>History of Philosophy (Origin and Orientation)</p> <p>Western and Eastern Philosophy</p>	<p>Students will learn about the origin and orientation of philosophy. They will learn about the fundamentals of western and eastern philosophy.</p> <p>Activity: Presentation, Lecture, and class discussion Detailed analysis of Famous Quotation</p> <p>Reading Material: Russell, B. (2013). <i>History of western philosophy: Collectors edition</i>. Routledge.</p>	PLO 1, 2	
6.	Ancient Philosophy (Milesians, Pre-Socratic, Golden Era, Greek and Roman Philosophy,	Students will learn about the subject matter of ancient philosophy. Will be focusing on detailed orientation of Milesians, Pre-Socratic, Golden Era,	PLO 1, 2	

	Post Aristotelian Philosophy, Ancient Eastern Thought)	<p>Greek and Roman Philosophy, Post Aristotelian Philosophy, Ancient Eastern Thought.</p> <p>Activity: Presentation, Lecture, and class discussion.</p> <p>Detailed analysis of Famous Quotation</p> <p>Reading Material: Russell, B. (2013). <i>History of western philosophy: Collectors edition</i>. Routledge.</p>		
7.	<p>Medieval Philosophy (Age of Enlightenment)</p> <p>Islamic Philosophy (Muslim Philosophers: Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, Al Farabi, Ibn Arabi)</p>	<p>Students will get to know and understand how Augustine learned from Platonic theory and was able to move from materialism and atheism to Christianity. Students will learn the concepts of practice, tradition, and the role of virtues in Human life. Philosophical accounts of Muslim Philosophers.</p> <p>Students will internalize the contribution of Muslim Philosophers.</p> <p>Activity: Lecture, and class discussion Detailed analysis of Famous Quotation</p> <p>Reading Material: Russell, B. (2013). <i>History of western philosophy: Collectors edition</i>. Routledge.</p>	PLO 1, 2	
8	<p>Modern/Contemporary Philosophy</p> <p>Philosophy of Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concept of Religion 	<p>Students will be given a comparative of all eras. Detailed analysis of contemporary philosophy and models.</p> <p>Activity: Lecture, Class discussion, Documentaries</p>	PLO 1, 2	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religion as a System of Beliefs and Rituals ● Forms of Religious Beliefs ● Concept of Argument 	<p>Reading Material:</p> <p>Russell, B. (2013). <i>History of western philosophy: Collectors edition</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Mann, D. & Dann, E. G. (2005). <i>Philosophy: A New Introduction</i>.</p>		
9	Midterm Examination			
10	<p>Philosophical Arguments for God's Existence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cosmological Argument ● Teleological Argument ● Ontological Argument ● Moral Law Argument 	<p>Students will familiarize with such questions as, What is the difference between good and evil? What are the limits of intellectual knowledge? Does God exist? Where am I ultimately headed?</p> <p>Activity: Lecture, short videos, and class discussion</p>	PLO 1, 2	
11	Philosophy of Mind/Body Problem in Philosophy	<p>Students will learn about the philosophy of mind, relationship between mind, body and soul and philosophical grounds of Monism and Dualism. They will get to know about the major philosophers like Rene Descartes.</p> <p>Activity: Lecture, short videos, and class discussion</p>	PLO 1, 2	
12	Free Will and Determinism	<p>Students will learn about the concept of free will and determinism. The students will learn about the detailed perspective of determinism and its various theoretical grounds.</p> <p>Activity:</p>	PLO 1, 2	

		Lecture, and class discussion.		
13	Social Philosophy	<p>Students will familiarize with the nature, subject matter, rationale, scope and practical implication of social philosophy. Furthermore, major social philosophers will be highlighted in this regard.</p> <p>Activity: Lecture and discussion in class.</p> <p>Reading Material: Gordon, H. S. (2002). <i>The history and philosophy of social science</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Rosenberg. 2000. <i>Philosophy of Science</i>. Routledge.</p>	PLO 1, 2	
14	Political Philosophy	<p>Students will familiarize with the nature, subject matter, rationale, scope and practical implication of Political philosophy. Furthermore, major social philosophers will be highlighted in this regard.</p> <p>Activity: Discussion an assigned reading.</p> <p>Reading Material: Gordon, H. S. (2002). <i>The history and philosophy of social science</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Rosenberg. 2000. <i>Philosophy of Science</i>. Routledge.</p>	PLO 1, 2, 3	
15	Moral Philosophy	Students will learn about the concepts of moral relativism, justice, the virtue of justice or justice as a virtue rather than rational inquiry, balance and justice and especially the nature of	PLO 1, 2, 3,	

		<p>modern legal system and the modern idea of justice.</p> <p>Two sources: 1. <i>Lawyers: In, Hind Swaraj</i>. Written by M.K.Gandhi.</p> <p>Reading Material: Gordon, H. S. (2002). <i>The history and philosophy of social science</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Rosenberg. 2000. <i>Philosophy of Science</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Activity: Lecture, and class discussion</p>		
16	<p>Miscellaneous Concepts in Philosophy & Revision of the Course</p>	<p>Students will learn about the multiple concepts and intellectual movements of philosophical world. Instructor will engage students in debatable issues of contemporary society as well.</p> <p>Activity: Audio-visual material will be shown including some paintings.</p>	PLO 1, 2, 3	
	FINAL/TERMINAL EXAMS			

Note:-

- This course outline is a working outline for our whole semester. It is your (students) responsibility to read everything stated in this document as to be well aware of regarding what we will study during semester.