Course Prefix and Number: PHI 101  

Credits: 3

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Course Description: Introduces a broad spectrum of philosophical problems and perspectives with an emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about meaning, knowledge, reality, and values. Part I of II. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To fulfill a humanities/fine arts elective, or provide information to anyone interested in learning about philosophy.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to
a. Identify the influences of Greek rational thought in the development of Western thinking;
b. Identify features of Cartesian thinking in Western thought;
c. Apply Wittgenstein’s methods of analysis to determine the distinction between metaphysical belief and knowledge;
d. Identify characteristics of existential philosophy that are important in today’s thinking; and
e. Distinguish the features of Buddhist thinking from the traditional Western mindset.

Major Topics to Be Included:
a. Ancient Greek Idealism: Socrates, Plato, Pre-Socratics, and Aristotle
b. Nature of metaphysics and traditional metaphysical problem
c. Limits and nature of language
d. Empiricism, rationalism, and pragmatism
e. Introduction to existential thought
f. Ordinary language school of thought
g. Cartesian dualism—mind/body problem
h. Contrasts with Buddhism

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, and Year): January 29, 2019