

Northern Marianas College

CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Course: PI201 Introduction to Philosophy

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2023

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: PI201

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

The course guide has been modified to reflect current curriculum content, teaching methods, textbook, and Student Learning Outcomes.


Ajani Burrell 5.16.2023

Proposer Date


Ajani Burrell 5.16.2023

Academic Unit Head Date


Adam Walsh 05.15.23

Language & Format Review Specialist Date


Ajani Burrell 5.16.2023

Academic Council Chair Date


Lorraine Maui (May 17, 2023 22:51 EDT)
Lorraine C. Maui May 17, 2023

Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services Date

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Course: PI201 Introduction to Philosophy

1. Department

Languages & Humanities

2. Purpose

PI 201 provides an introductory survey of major subfields within philosophy: epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, logic, and philosophy of religion. Studying philosophy offers students a meaningful experience in critical thinking, as well as a chance to understand cultural and historical differences in how basic questions such as "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" are answered. PI201 is designed to facilitate students' understanding of their own philosophy of life and to give them an appreciation of the philosophies of others.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Lawhead, William F. *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. Latest edition McGraw Hill.

Recommended: None

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:** None
3. **Other:** None

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular Degree Credits

D. Catalog Course Description

This course provides an introduction to philosophy including studying the works of great thinkers. Readings and discussions show how, throughout history, people have sought answers to the same philosophical questions: Who am I? Where did the world come from? Is there a God? How do I know what is truth? What is the right thing to do? Prerequisites: EN101 (Offered Fall and Spring)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the General Education Humanities requirement for all A.A./ Liberal Arts degree emphases.

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F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates lectures, small group and class discussions, reading assignments, group activities, audiovisual presentations, assignments, reflection papers, periodic quizzes, a final project and final exam.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment

Prerequisites: EN101

Concurrent Course Enrollment: None

Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s)

English Placement Level: EN101

Mathematics Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit hour course, cost of the textbook, and instructional materials fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary and/or any additional costs to NMC.

Instructional resources needed for this course include: whiteboard and markers, projector, internet access, and a classroom, library access, and other materials as may be necessary.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on quizzes, tests, projects, assignments, homework, and papers. NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 What is Philosophy
 - 1.1 Logic and argumentation
 - 1.2 Philosophical methods
 - 1.3 Ancient Greek philosophy

- 2.0 Reality & Being
 - 2.1 Reality and the brain
 - 2.2 Ontology: What is real?
 - 2.3 Contemporary physics and the nature of reality
 - 2.4 Cosmology: Is there order and purpose in the universe?

- 3.0 Human Nature
 - 3.1 Personal identity and the self
 - 3.2 Issues of human identity and freedom

- 4.0 Philosophy & God
 - 4.1 Approaches to the infinite
 - 4.2 Arguments for the existence of God
 - 4.3 Traditional images of God
 - 4.4 Theological implications for human nature and cosmology

- 5.0 Knowledge Sources
 - 5.1 The rationalist approach of Rene Descartes
 - 5.2 Responses to the mind-body problem
 - 5.3 British empiricism
 - 5.4 Implications of empiricism for philosophy

- 6.0 Political Philosophy
 - 6.1 Theories of the right to rule
 - 6.2 Natural rights
 - 6.3 Political theory

- 7.0 Ethics
 - 7.1 Consequentialist, teleological, ethical theories
 - 7.2 Non-consequentialist, deontological, ethical theories
 - 7.3 Natural law theory
 - 7.4 Virtue ethics

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8. Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The nature, basic concepts, and methods of philosophy; and
- 2.0 The scope, basic concepts, major issues, and important theories of:
 - 2.1 Epistemology;
 - 2.2 Philosophy of science;
 - 2.3 Metaphysics;
 - 2.4 Ethics;
 - 2.5 Social and political philosophy;
 - 2.6 Philosophy of religion.

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9. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1.0 Detail the nature, basic concepts, and methods of philosophy; and
- 2.0 Describe the issues of importance in:
 - 2.1 Epistemology;
 - 2.2 Philosophy of science;
 - 2.3 Metaphysics;
 - 2.4 Ethics;
 - 2.5 Social and political philosophy;
 - 2.6 Philosophy of religion.;

10. Assessment Measures of Student Learning Outcomes

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Quizzes;
- 2.0 Assignments;
- 3.0 Oral Presentations;
- 4.0 Group/Individual Projects; and
- 5.0 Final Exam.