SYLLABUS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013
CIP CODE: 24.0101
SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Philosophy
COURSE NUMBER: PHIL-0103
CREDIT HOURS: 3
INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus
TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus
EMAIL: KCKCC issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.

PREREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Designed to introduce students to the contributions made by major thinkers on central questions concerning humanity and the multicultural human condition, this philosophy course focuses on the nature of human experience, knowledge, and social existence. Application of significant philosophical ideas to contemporary human issues are stressed.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.
COURSE OUTLINE:

I. What is Philosophy?
   A. The Love of Wisdom
   B. Enduring and Perplexing Questions
   C. Major Subject Areas
   D. The Use of Reason

II. A Little Bit of Logic
   A. Deductive and Inductive Reasoning
   B. Abductive Reasoning
   C. Applications

III. The Beginnings of Philosophy: The Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle
   A. Sophistry: A New Profession
   B. The Philosophy of Plato: Knowledge and Reality
   C. The Philosophy of Aristotle: Philosophical Realism

IV. Philosophy of Religion
   A. The Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God
   B. The Teleological Argument for the Existence of God
   C. The Ontological Argument for the Existence of God
   D. The Argument from Religious Experience
   E. The Problem of Evil
   F. Faith and Reason

V. The Theory of Knowledge (Epistemology)
   A. What Can We Know?
   B. Skepticism
   C. Empiricism
   D. Rationalism
   E. Perception: Our Knowledge of the External World
   F. Truth, Rationality, and Cognitive Relativism
   G. Transcendental Idealism

VI. Metaphysics: Philosophy of Mind
   A. The Mind-Body Problem
   B. Dualism
   C. Materialism
   D. Functionalism
   E. Personal Identity and Immortality

VII. Free Will and Determinism
   A. Determinism
   B. Libertarianism
C. Compatibilism

IX. Ethics
A. What is Ethics?
B. Ethical Relativism
C. Egoism
D. Utilitarianism
E. Kantian Deontological Ethics
F. Social/Political Justice

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

A. The student will be able to define philosophy and explain the questions and subject areas in Philosophy.
B. The student will be able to distinguish between various types of reasoning.
C. The student will be able to explain the historical foundations of the discipline of Philosophy.
D. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical questions addressed in the Philosophy of Religion.
E. The student will be able to explain and evaluate various theories of knowledge.
F. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the metaphysical issues addressed in the Philosophy of Mind
G. The student will be able to assess arguments relating to free will, determinism, and compatibilism.
H. The student will be able to define Ethics as a branch of study within Philosophy.

COMPETENCIES:

The student will be able to define philosophy and explain the questions and subject areas in Philosophy.
1. The student will be able to define “Philosophy.”
2. The student will be able to identify the enduring and perplexing questions in Philosophy.
3. The student will be able to identify the major subject areas within Philosophy.
4. The student will be able to demonstrate the use of reason in evaluating philosophical arguments.

The student will be able to distinguish between various types of reasoning.
5. The student will be able to distinguish between deductive and inductive reasoning.
6. The student will be able to explain abductive reasoning.
7. The student will be able to apply the various types of reasoning to case studies.

The student will be able to explain the historical foundations of the discipline of Philosophy.
8. The student will be able to explain the influence of the Sophists on the discipline of
9. The student will be able to discuss Plato’s place in the history of Philosophy as well as his theories of knowledge and reality.
10. The student will be able to discuss Aristotle’s place in the history of Philosophy as well as his philosophical realism.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical questions addressed in the Philosophy of Religion.**
11. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the cosmological argument for the existence of God.
12. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the teleological argument for the existence of God.
13. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the ontological argument for the existence of God.
14. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the argument from religious experience.
15. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate the problem of evil.

**The student will be able to explain and evaluate various theories of knowledge.**
16. The student will be able to explain the skeptic’s explanation of what we can know.
17. The student will be able to explain the empiricist’s explanation of what we can know.
18. The student will be able to explain the rationalist’s explanation of what we can know.
19. The student will be able to explain and evaluate various explanations of our knowledge of the external world.
20. The student will be able to explain the relationship between truth, reality, and cognitive relativism.
21. The student will be able to explain and evaluate the epistemology of the transcendental idealists.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the metaphysical issues addressed in the Philosophy of Mind**
22. The student will be able to explain the mind-body problem.
23. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate dualism.
24. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate materialism.
25. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate functionalism.
26. The student will be able to discuss the issue of personal identity and immortality.

**The student will be able to assess arguments relating to free will, determinism, and compatibilism.**
27. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate the theory of determinism.
28. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate the theory of libertarianism.
29. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate the theory of compatibilism.

**The student will be able to define Ethics as a branch of study within Philosophy.**
30. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate ethical relativism.
31. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate egoism.
32. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate utilitarianism.
33. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate Kantian deontological ethics.
34. The student will be able to discuss the concept of social/political justice and apply ethical theories to various social/political issues.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:**
Student progress is evaluated by means of:
Homework
In-Class Exercises
Exams

**SPECIAL NOTES:**
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college’s policy on non-discrimination be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact Director of Academic Resource Center, in Room 3354 or call (913) 288-7670.
Kansas City Kansas Community College

21st Century General Education Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes
Discipline knowledge and content mastery is expected of all graduates. More specifically, KCKCC is committed to the Learning Outcomes listed below. We believe that competence in the Learning Outcomes is essential for the success of graduates and will enhance their ability to become contributing members of our increasingly complex world. These areas of knowledge and skills are equally valid for all KCKCC graduates, whether they transfer to a four-year college or pursue a career after leaving college.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Communication Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to express, interpret, and modify ideas/information effectively (both written and oral), including but not limited to reading text accurately and correctly; writing with a clear purpose and effective organization; speaking effectively using appropriate styles that suit the message, purpose, and content; and employing active listening techniques.

Computation Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning using numerical data.

Critical Reasoning Learning Outcomes
The learner will understand inductive and deductive reasoning and have the ability to define problems and use data (qualitative and quantitative) to make complex decisions utilizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

Technology and Information Management Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to define, collect, organize, analyze, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The learner will also have the ability to understand basic technology concepts and functionality in order to use technology as a tool to locate and retrieve information.

Community and Civil Responsibility Learning Outcomes
The learner will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse ideas, values, and perspectives of a culturally diverse world; an understanding of the ethical issues and values
that are prerequisites for making sound judgments and decisions; a recognition of the obligation to become actively involved as a contributing member of the community; and a sensitivity to the awareness of aesthetic expression.

**Personal and interpersonal Skills Learning Outcomes**

The learner will have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with others; to understand and evaluate his/her capabilities; to manage his/her personal growth by setting realistic and appropriate goals.

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES**

Know your instructor’s name.

Turn off your electronic devices in class/make paying attention to the work of the class your only concern.

Miss class only when you cannot attend/acquire missed information and materials ASAP.

Know your syllabus.

Know the attendance policy.

Know the requirements for tests and assignments.

Know information about final exam and make-up exams.

Know instructor’s position on use of Wikipedia or other online sources.

Know the instructor’s preferred writing style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Always know your grade.

Contact your teacher ASAP with concerns or questions.

Know the benefits of the academic resource center.

Know if your course has a practicum, service learning component, or other exception.

Use an academic planner.

Know the course withdrawal policy.

Know your instructor’s office hours and make appointments when necessary.

Know the school’s scholastic honesty policy.
Be familiar with the course learning objectives, course competencies, and the college’s 21st century learning outcomes for general education.