



COURSE OUTLINE : PHILO 120

D Credit – Degree Applicable

COURSE ID 004131

Cyclical Review: May 2019

Revision: October 2021

COURSE DISCIPLINE : PHILO

COURSE NUMBER : 120

COURSE TITLE (FULL) : History of Philosophy: Modern Period

COURSE TITLE (SHORT) : Hist Philosophy-Modern

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM C-ID : PHIL 140 – History of Modern Philosophy

ACADEMIC SENATE DISCIPLINE: Philosophy

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHILO 120 is a critical study of the philosophic systems and ideas of the early modern period that have had a dominant impact on Western civilization, with special emphasis on Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant.

Total Lecture Units:3.00

Total Laboratory Units: 0.00

Total Course Units: 3.00

Total Lecture Hours:54.00

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.00

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.00

Total Contact Hours: 54.00

Total Out-of-Class Hours: 108.00

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 100 or ESL 151.



ENTRY STANDARDS

	Subject	Number	Title	Description	Include
1	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories to identify topic, thesis, support, transitions, conclusion, audience, and tone;	Yes
2	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate contemporary articles and stories for the comprehension of difficult content and the identification of main ideas and (topic-based) evidence;	Yes
3	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	read, analyze, and evaluate student compositions for unity, development, use of evidence, interpretation, coherence, and variety of sentence form;	Yes
4	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write a summary of a contemporary article or story with correct citation techniques;	Yes
5	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, demonstrating a basic understanding of essay organization;	Yes
6	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that addresses the topic, is directed by a thesis statement, uses appropriate textual evidence, develops logical interpretations, and concludes with some compelling observations;	Yes
7	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that integrates the ideas of others (i.e., authors) through paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting with correct citation techniques;	Yes
8	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write an argumentative essay that generates novel ideas (those that add to the conversation rather than repeating the author’s ideas) related to the topic and the readings;	Yes
9	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	write compositions (e.g., summaries and argumentative essays) that are easy to read and follow, though some errors in grammar, mechanics, spelling, or diction may exist;	Yes
10	ENGL	100	Writing Workshop	proofread and edit essays for content, language, citation, and formatting problems.	Yes
11	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	read and critically analyze various academic readings;	Yes
12	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	summarize readings;	Yes
13	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	organize fully-developed essays in both expository and argumentative modes;	Yes

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14	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose a 500 to 550-word essay which: summarizes and cites appropriately a reading passage; includes a clear thesis statement; uses evidence to support the thesis; shows clear organization into an introduction, body, and conclusion;	Yes
15	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	revise writing to eliminate errors in syntax, and grammatical constructions;	Yes
16	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	employ basic library research techniques;	Yes
17	ESL	151	Reading And Composition V	compose one research paper (1,000 words) or two short research papers (500-700words each) with citations.	Yes

EXIT STANDARDS

- 1 Read short primary texts with comprehension;
- 2 write discursive/exploratory essays which summarize and argue for a philosophical position;
- 3 sustain informed, engaged, and tolerant critical discussions;
- 4 identify and cogently summarize some of the philosophical theories of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant;
- 5 develop the skills to listen carefully to opposing viewpoints and to offer a philosophical response to them.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 accurately summarize some of the major theories of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century western philosophy;
- 2 articulate the main strengths and weaknesses of each major epistemological theory of the early modern period, and the metaphysical implications of each.

COURSE CONTENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

	Description	Lecture	Lab	Total Hours
1	Introduction to Modern Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical periods of philosophy and major modern figures • Epistemological theme and metaphysical consequences 	6	0	6



2	Continental Rationalism • Descartes • Spinoza • Leibniz	15	0	15
3	British Empiricism • Locke • Berkeley • Hume	15	0	15
4	Kant • On space and time • On natural science • On metaphysics	18	0	18
				54

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1 five-to-ten page papers attempting to solve a philosophical problem (e.g., “How do humans get knowledge?)
- 2 construction of careful, sustained and useful critiques of peer’s first drafts (e.g., restate a thesis such as “All knowledge is derived from sense-experience”, raise unaddressed questions, and construct plausible counter-examples);
- 3 rethinking and rewriting papers in response to criticism (e.g., consider a given counterexample, draw out its implications, and revise the theory or argument in response);
- 4 group presentation (e.g., Rationalist arguments for God’s existence vs Hume’s arguments against God’s existence).

METHODS OF EVALUATION

- 1 regularly scheduled in-class essays;
- 2 final examination.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Lecture
- Laboratory
- Studio



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- Discussion
- Multimedia
- Tutorial
- Independent Study
- Collaboratory Learning
- Demonstration
- Field Activities (Trips)
- Guest Speakers
- Presentations

TEXTBOOKS

Title	Type	Publisher	Edition	Medium	Author	ISBN	Date
Bacon to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy	Required	Waveland Press	3	Print	Thomson, Garrett	1-57766-753-0	2012
Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources	Required	Hackett	2	Print	Ariew, Roger	978-0872209787	2009