PHIL 20A: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY FROM SOCRATES THROUGH ST. THOMAS

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Term</td>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree &amp; Credit Status</td>
<td>Degree-Applicable Credit Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foothill GE</td>
<td>Area I: Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repeatability</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify significant theories held by major philosophers and/or philosophic schools of thought from the ancient through medieval periods.
- Explain and evaluate historically important philosophical arguments from ancient through medieval period.

Description

Examination of Western philosophy with an emphasis on Greek philosophy from Thales through Aristotle and selected medieval philosophers from Augustine to St. Thomas Aquinas.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

a. Formulate and summarize the philosophical views of important Western philosophers in the periods of Greek antiquity, with an emphasis on metaphysical, epistemological, moral and political theories of the philosophers studied.

b. Compare the theories and supporting arguments of major philosophers studied.

c. Assess the importance of major ancient Greek and medieval philosophers in Western culture.

Course Content

a. The Pre-Socratics and the Mediterranean background of Greek philosophy
   i. The Milesians
   ii. Pythagoras
   iii. Heraclitus
   iv. Parmenides
   v. Empedocles and Anaxagoras
   vi. Democritus and Atomism

b. The Sophists

i. The rise and nature of the Sophists; the relativism of sophists like Protagoras and Thrasymachus

ii. Philosophical views and influence

c. Socrates
   i. Life and personality
   ii. Socrates’ aims and philosophical views as presented in the early Platonic dialogues

d. Plato
   i. Central metaphysical and epistemological doctrines including the theory of forms, knowledge and belief distinction, and the rational/irrational parts of the soul doctrine
   ii. Political philosophy

e. Aristotle
   i. Central metaphysical and epistemological doctrines
   ii. Comparison of Plato and Aristotle
   iii. Philosophy from Augustine to St. Thomas

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

- Short papers
- Quizzes on the reading
- Class participation
- Oral reports

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Reading of primary and secondary literature

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials


Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

a. Responding in writing to critical study questions designed to direct students to key issues
b. Comparative written analysis of philosophers based on a list of approved essay topics

**Discipline(s)**

Philosophy