

Course: PHI 110

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Credit Hours: 3

Department: Philosophy

Prerequisite: None

May also receive credit for this course through International Baccalaureate

General Education Area:

HUMAN CULTURES - Humanities (*GEC 111*)

Information submitted by a department representative on 4/30/2021 1:11:56 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center

Typically Offered During:

Fall Full Semester:	YES	Fall 1 st Block:	NO	Fall 2 nd Block:	NO
Spring Full Semester:	YES	Spring 1 st Block:	NO	Spring 2 nd Block:	NO
Summer:	YES				

Typical Instructional Modality:

Traditional (seated):	YES	Blended:	NO	Internet:	YES
Online Video:	NO	Web Conference:	NO		

May Also Count Toward Department Offering:

Major:	YES	Minor:	YES	Certificate:	NO
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Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (Without using the catalog description)?

As a discipline, philosophy critically analyzes and challenges our foundational assumptions and commitments. This class introduces students to some of the main problems in philosophy; these problems grapple with some of our most basic assumptions and beliefs about the world, such as what can be known and what reality is.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Students will gain an understanding of the problems that have been troubling thinkers for ages, evaluate some of the solutions that those thinkers have offered, and learn how one might go about trying to solve those problems for oneself. In doing so, students will learn how to critically read a text, evaluate arguments, and argue for one’s own position.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Since philosophy just is critical thinking, any student will benefit from the exercise in critical thinking that any philosophy class offers. In addition, the main problems in philosophy grapple with foundational beliefs, and those beliefs inform the approaches to other disciplines. Philosophy used to be the catch-all name for all academic inquiry, and because of this there are philosophical questions relevant to most other disciplines (political philosophy, philosophy of science, philosophy of mathematics, etc.). Students will find the issues of this course relevant to their inquiry in other disciplines. In addition, because philosophy challenges foundational assumptions, thinking philosophically can be an exercise in thinking “outside the box”; students often note that the way in which basic problems are “turned over and around” in philosophy leads them to exercise creative thinking in other fields.

Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)

This course explores various ways of understanding the human self and its relation to the world. Through a consideration of what can be known, what is worth valuing, what reality is, and how human communities should be composed and regulated, the course deals with central themes that arise from the human quest for deeper self-understanding.