COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:  Introduction to Philosophy: PHIL 1200
CREDITS:  3 (Lecture 3 / Lab 0)
PREREQUISITES:  None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Introduction to Philosophy is designed to familiarize students with the general concepts and theories of the major philosophers. The course focuses on metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and human nature, and examines pertinent concepts such as reality, God, truth, and the human condition. Special attention will be given to the theories of Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, James, Gettier, Kuhn, and Jackson. From this foundation of basic ideas, the course guides students to examine their personal philosophies by emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and analysis while respecting differing opinions. MNTC Goal Area(s): (06) The Humanities and Fine Arts and (09) Ethical and Civic Responsibility.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Metaphysics
   A. Concepts of substance
   B. Theories of being and non-being
   C. Ideas of God
   D. Perceptions of reality, Berkeley’s idealism
   E. Law of cause and effect
   F. Determinism and free will
2. Epistemology
   A. Theories of knowledge, Descartes’ thought experiment
   B. Problems of determining truth, Gettier on knowledge
   C. Rationalism and empiricism
   D. Science and the scientific method, Kuhn’s scientific revolutions
   E. Beliefs and justifications, James’ pragmatism
3. Ethics
   A. Conceptions of good, pleasure, and happiness
   B. Deontological ethical theories
   C. Virtue ethics
   D. Teleological theories of ethics
   E. Reason and emotion in ethical thinking
4. Human nature
   A. Investigation into the human being
   B. Mental phenomena, Jackson’s qualia problem
   C. The idea of a non-physical self
   D. Identity, Parfit
   E. Death
COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:

1. Students will associate individual philosophers and theories with specific metaphysical concepts and ideas.
2. Students will describe the effect of Hume's beliefs on the scientific thinking on cause and effect.
3. Students will discuss theories of materialism and Berkeley’s immaterialism in relation with concepts of determinism and free will.
4. Students will explain the impact of Kuhn’s observations on experience to scientific procedure and assumption.
5. Students will explain James’ will to believe.
6. Students will compare rationalism to empiricism.
7. Students will explain the difficulties in epistemology regarding the reliability of sense data, reason and authority.
8. Students will compare and contrast physicalist, dualist, and idealist concepts of human nature and the major difficulties of each.
9. Students will discuss different conceptions of identity.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
Humans and Fine Arts
Ethic and Civic Responsibility

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Working productively and cooperatively
Communicating clearly and effectively
Thinking creatively and critically

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
The student is expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussion, complete class assignments as required, and complete a major term paper explaining, analyzing, and applying a philosophic theory to the contemporary world. The student is expected to do extensive reading from the text as well as primary works. Argument based presentations are also required.

METHODS FOR EVALUATING STUDENT LEARNING:
Student assessment shall take place using instruments selected/developed by the course instructor.

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: December 3, 2018

AASC APPROVAL DATE: December 19, 2018
REVIEW DATE: December 2023