COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: Human Nature: PHIL 1350
CREDITS: 3 (Lec 3 / Lab 0)
PREREQUISITES: None. College-level reading recommended.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
This course is intended to provide students the opportunity to explore classic questions about human nature and the answers that different cultures and thinkers have come to throughout history. Students will read works from the traditions of Confucianism, Upanishadic Hinduism, the Christian theological tradition, and Muslim tradition, as well as classic works in the Western tradition. Evaluation of examples from modern brain science and psychology will allow students to learn about how the brain shapes our ideas of ourselves and the world around us. Finally, the course will examine issues such as the impact of technology and the informational revolution on human living and the prospect of human development in the future. This course is intended for all students. MNTC Goal Area(s): (06) The Humanities and Fine Arts and (08) Global Perspective.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Classical views of human nature
   A. Confucianism
   B. Upanishadic Hinduism
   C. Christian theological tradition
   D. Muslim theological tradition
   E. Hume
   F. Descartes
   G. Kant
   H. Mill
   I. Darwin
   J. Freud
   K. Marx
   L. B.F. Skinner
2. Brain science and human functioning
   A. Basic information about the brain and its functions
   B. The neurology of emotional response
   C. The effects of brain trauma on self-image and perception
   D. Memory and human experience
3. Technology, culture, and human nature
   A. The information age and its effects on human living
   B. Floridi

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
1. Students will identify the Confucian view of human nature.
2. Students will contrast the Upanishadic Hindu view of human nature with the
classic Christian theological view.
3. Students will analyze the deductions that led Hume to his “bundle theory” of human nature.
4. Students will explain Descartes’ dualistic theory of human nature.
5. Students will identify common sex stereotypes as they apply to concepts of human nature.
6. Students will critique Skinner’s view of behavioral conditioning and determinism.
7. Students will explain the interdependency of perception, cognition, and brain processes.
8. Students will identify the role that memory plays in daily living and human identity.
9. Students will describe some areas in which the Information Age has had a large impact on human lifestyles.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
The Humanities and Fine Arts
Global Perspective

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

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
The students attend class regularly, participate in class discussions and complete assignments and required testing. Two hours of preparation outside of class is expected for each hour spent in class.

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