

Introduction to Philosophy: Course Syllabus



Introduction to Philosophy: The Big Picture

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will take you on an exciting adventure that covers more than 2500 years. Along the way, you'll run into some very strange characters. For example, you'll read about a man who hung out on street corners, barefoot and dirty, pestering everyone he met with questions. You'll read about another man who climbed inside a stove to think about whether he existed. Despite their odd behavior, these and other philosophers of the Western world are among the most brilliant and influential thinkers of all time. As you read about them, you'll see where many of the most fundamental ideas of Western civilization came from. You'll also get a chance to ask yourself some of the same questions these great thinkers pondered. At the end, you'll have a better understanding of yourself and the world around you, from atoms to outer space and everything in between.

Unit 1: The World of Wonder

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Define philosophy.**
- * **Describe what philosophers study.**
- * **Identify questions that philosophers ask.**
- * **Explain what it means to do philosophy.**
- * **State what philosophy can do for you.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

The World of Wonder: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
The World of Wonder: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz – The World of Wonder	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 2: From Mythology to Philosophy

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Explain why myth has been called the “cradle of philosophy.”
- * Describe how Western philosophy first began in ancient Greece.
- * List some of the questions that the earliest philosophers pondered.
- * Identify pre-Socratic philosophers and state how they answered the questions.
- * Explain how the earliest philosophers laid the foundations for science.

ASSIGNMENTS:

From Mythology to Philosophy: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
From Mythology to Philosophy: Online	<i>Homework</i>	10 points

Philosophy Lab Questions		
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz – From Mythology to Philosophy	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 3: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Give an overview of the classical period of ancient Greece.
- * Describe Socrates' life and the Socratic method.
- * Outline the events of Plato's life and his main ideas.
- * Summarize Aristotle's life and his major contributions.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 3 Quiz – Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 4: Hellenistic Philosophy: How Can Humans Be Happy?

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **State the general aims of Hellenistic philosophy.**
- * **Describe the philosophy of cynicism.**
- * **List the ideas of the Epicureans.**
- * **Describe stoic philosophy.**
- * **Identify the basic views of the skeptics.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Hellenistic Philosophy: How Can Humans Be Happy?: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Hellenistic Philosophy: How Can Humans Be Happy?: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz – Hellenistic Philosophy: How Can Humans Be Happy?	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Philosophy Midterm Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- * Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

Philosophy Midterm Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
Midterm Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 5: Christianity and Philosophy in the Middle Ages

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Describe the rise of Christianity in Medieval Europe.
- * List the main influences on philosophy during the Middle Ages.
- * Explain how Saint Augustine defended the Catholic Church.
- * Describe the scholastic philosophy of Saint Anselm.
- * Identify the contributions of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Christianity and Philosophy in the Middle Ages: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Christianity and Philosophy in the		

Middle Ages: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz – Christianity and Philosophy in the Middle Ages	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 6: The Rise of Modern Western Philosophy

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Outline major changes that occurred in Europe from 1400 to 1800.**
- * **Identify influences on Renaissance philosophers such as Erasmus.**
- * **Describe the rationalist philosophies of Descartes and Spinoza.**
- * **Describe the empiricist philosophies of Locke and Hume.**
- * **Explain how Kant combined rationalism and empiricism.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

The Rise of Modern Western Philosophy: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
The Rise of Modern Western Philosophy: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz – The Rise of Modern Western Philosophy	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 7: Western Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * Describe approaches to philosophy that began in 19th century Europe.
- * List the main contributions of the German philosopher Georg Hegel.
- * Summarize the philosophies of Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.
- * Identify the main ideas of Karl Marx and Jeremy Bentham.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Western Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Western Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz – Western Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 8: Western Philosophy in the Twentieth Century

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Describe the philosophy of pragmatism.**
- * **Give an overview of analytic philosophy.**
- * **List the basic tenets of phenomenology.**
- * **Identify the main ideas of existentialism.**
- * **State how philosophy has changed your thinking.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

Western Philosophy in the Twentieth Century: Unit Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Western Philosophy in the Twentieth Century: Online Philosophy Lab Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz – Western Philosophy in the Twentieth Century	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Philosophy Final Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- * **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- * **Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

ASSIGNMENT:

Philosophy Final Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
Class Reflection Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	10 points

© eDynamic Learning Inc. | All Rights Reserved.