

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2010

Course No.: Phil 101 **Course Title:** Introduction to Philosophy **Units:** 3.00
Section No.: 29396 **Class Hours:** 8:00am-11:10am **Days:** **Room No.:** 30-14
Instructor Name: John Wehrle, MA Phil jwehrle@charter.net www.thepursuitofwisdom.com
SPRING 2010 WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Spring Semester Begins February 16
Spring Break Holiday April 9
Spring Break April 12-16
Memorial Day Holiday May 31
Spring Semester Ends June 12

Last day to withdraw from a 16-week class
and receive a "W" is May 7th

NOTE – CLASSES WILL NOT BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: April 9 through April 16; and May 31.

STATEMENT OF ACCESS: Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with instructors to discuss the opportunity for academic accommodation and be referred to disabled student program and services per Administrative Procedure (AP 3440)

Visit Victor Valley College online at www.vvc.edu

Prerequisite:

None except eligibility for English 101.

Textbook:

Philosophy: A Text with Readings 11th Edition. Manuel Velasquez Copyright 2011 Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
ISBN-13: 978-0-495-80875-6

Course Description:

Survey of major Western philosophers and movements since Renaissance: Continental Rationalism, British Empiricism, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Utilitarianism, Nietzsche, Pragmatism, Analytic Philosophy, Existentialism, Phenomenology, and Postmodernism.

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. (a). Describe the subject matter of philosophy by distinguishing and illustrating the sub-fields of epistemology, metaphysics, and axiology. (b). Distinguish the questions and methods of philosophy from those of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and other disciplines within the Humanities. (c). Discuss the positive role of philosophy in higher education and in personal and social life.
- 2 (a). Summarize, compare, contrast, and evaluate the rationalist philosophies of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. (b). Summarize, compare, contrast, and evaluate the empiricism of Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. (c). Describe, analyze, and evaluate Kant's resolution of the conflict between rationalism and empiricism.
3. (a). Summarize and evaluate the idealism of Hegel, including his metaphysics, philosophy of history, and logic. (b). Discuss and assess the effectiveness of the neo-Hegelian critique of Hegel's philosophy, including the positions of Feuerbach and Marx. (c). Identify and evaluate the social, moral, and political philosophy of the major Utilitarian philosophers. (d). Discuss the main themes of the philosophies of Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche, explaining in what ways they provide contrasting alternatives to dominant idealist and materialist views in the nineteenth century.
4. (a). Summarize and evaluate the philosophies of Pierce, James, and Dewey, including pragmatic theories of meaning, conceptions of truth, interpretations of religion, and ethical/social philosophies. (b). Identify the goals and methods of early 20th century analytic philosophy, including the Logical Atomism of Russell and Logical Positivism. (c). Discuss the distinctive contributions of ordinary

language philosophers and the later Wittgenstein to the understanding of traditional metaphysical and epistemological problems. (d). Compare and contrast the philosophical methods and accounts of human existence in the philosophies of Sartre and Heidegger. (e). Define “postmodernism” and illustrate its meaning in philosophy with reference to the work of Rorty and Derrida. (f). Summarize recent philosophical critiques of patriarchy in philosophy, and explain how interests and experiences of women are expressed in philosophical perspectives such as the ethics of care and ecofeminism. 5. (a). Formulate and defend historically informed positions on major philosophical issues of special contemporary concern, including religious truth, ethical relativism, and legitimate uses of power. (b). Summarize and illustrate the specific ways in which philosophy contributes to fulfillment of the obligations of effective citizenship.

Assignments:

Outlines:

Outlines will be worth between 60 and 120 points each. Type and title each outline separately and turn them in based on the due dates on the Course Calendar. Outlines should equal approximately one double-spaced, 12 font page per five textbook pages of reading. This means that a 20 page reading will require approximately four pages of outline.

Outline point total: 960 points (30% of Final Grade)

Term Paper:

The Term Paper will be at least 3000 words (10 pages) in length. The term paper is an argumentative essay in which you will form and defend a thesis using as much information from our textbook as possible. Students will pick their paper topic from the Critical Thinking questions that occur in the margins of the textbook. The paper will be turned in to Turnitin.com, further details on this process will be handed out in class.

Term Paper point total: 960 points (30% of Final Grade)

Assessments:

Final Exam:

There will be one final exam which will be handed out on the last day of class (Thursday, June 11th). The Final Exam will be comprehensive and will consist mainly concept matching and essay questions. Exam point total: 1280 points (40% of Final Grade)

Grade point breakdown:

90 - 100% 2880 - 3200 points A

80 - 89% 2560 - 2879 points B

70 - 79% 2240 - 2559 points C

60 - 69% 1920 - 2239 points D

0 - 59% 0 - 1919 points F

Academic Integrity Policies:

Classroom Behavior: Class time will consist of informal lectures and class discussions. These discussions may be on topics that some students feel very strongly about. I welcome everyone to voice their opinions respectfully. Students who are not respectful of others will be asked to refrain from such behavior. If that warning is not heeded, the student will be asked to leave the classroom. If the behavior continues at another class session the issue will be referred to Department Chair Dr. Lisa Ellis and the student will not be allowed to return until all issues have been resolved with her help.

Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is a serious abuse of my trust and counter to the entire purpose of the educational system. Unfortunately, cases of plagiarism are on the rise so I must make my policy on the matter clear. If plagiarism has occurred, the paper assignment will receive zero credit and the student may be failed from the course entirely depending upon the seriousness of the case. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to Department Chair Dr. Lisa Ellis at which time further action will be considered.

To avoid plagiarism, always use quotation marks when using another's words verbatim. Always cite what you have quoted and what you have paraphrased or summarized. Always give credit to others for their ideas. Never make it appear that another person's ideas are your own. If you have any specific questions you may ask my advice prior to turning in your paper.

Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus.