



Philosophy Course Outline
2021/2022

Number of periods in the cycle: 4

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Office Hours: Will be mandatory as the term unfolds

Texts:

- Primary Sources, various articles, youtube videos
- Students must take notes on a google doc shared with the teacher
- Material covered in class will be on Moodle.

Course Objectives:

- To define what philosophy is : its nature, its value, its relationship with other human pursuits,
- its general historical development, some of its major figures, and some of its persistent concerns.
- To consider philosophically some relevant contemporary issues.
- To help students develop the skill of thinking critically
- To help students to develop the skill of composing philosophical arguments.

Course Content: (Material may vary slightly)

1. Introductory philosophical concepts and categories - 5 branches of philosophy
2. Greek philosophy: PreSocratics and The Big Three (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) perception and reality, truth and opinion
3. Philosophy of Religion (Augustine, Aquinas, Freud, Marx, Nietzsche, GK Chesterton)
4. Ethics: the nature of morality, basis for moral behavior, relativist vs. objectivist ethics. (Mill, Ayer, McIntyre, Kant).
5. Philosophy of Mind: (The human condition -Kierkegaard, Nietzsche)
6. Free Will and Determinism (Kant , John Locke, Stephen Pinker)
7. Political Philosophy (Locke, Mill, Rousseau, Hobbes, Founding Fathers, Engels)
8. Aesthetics (Classical, Renaissance, Victorian, Modern, Post Modern)

From the Student Handbook: “This is a beginner level course into Western Philosophy. The goal is to introduce the student to the history and development of the

Western Philosophical tradition. Specific thinkers and issues from each of the four historical eras of Western philosophy – ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary – are considered in general, rather than detailed terms. Underlying themes are the relationship between philosophy and other disciplines, such as science, art and religion, and how philosophic thinking differs from other types of thinking.”

Homework and Assignments:

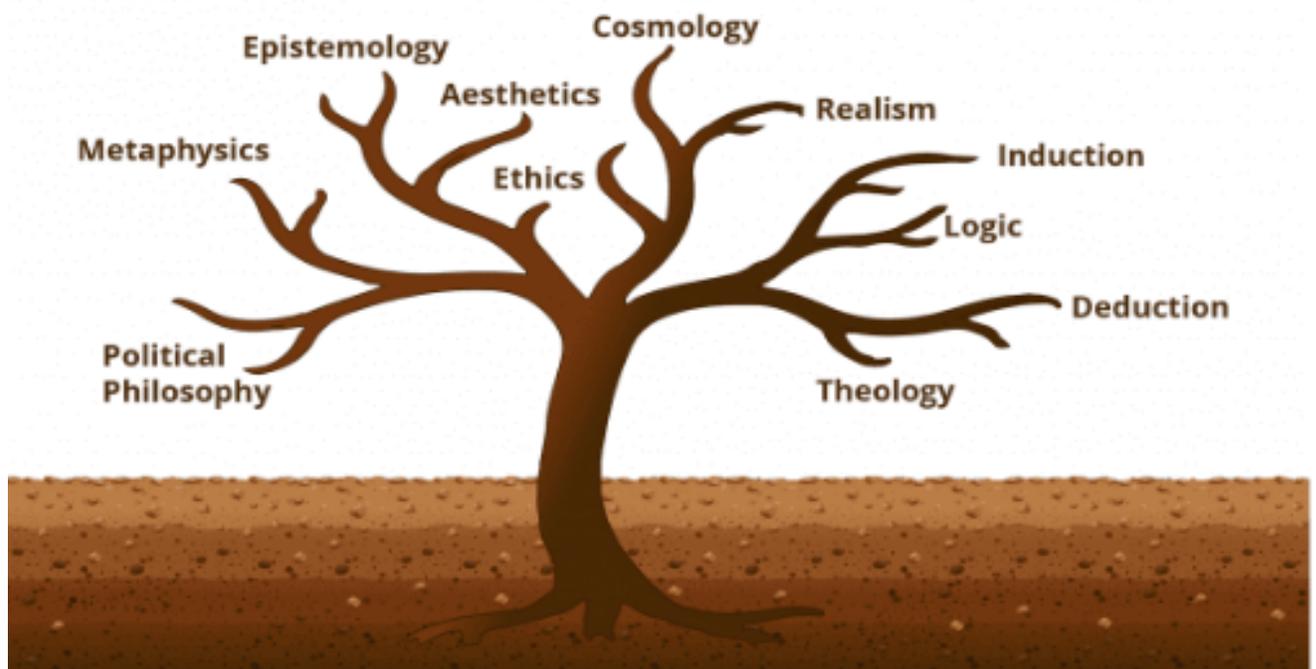
- Written homework is NOT assigned regularly
- Reading and reflection papers will be required every few weeks
- Tests and quizzes will require preparation based on class notes and reading.
- Emphasis on note taking and class discussions (which will be occasionally evaluated)

Term 1: Quizzes 20%
Reading Responses & Discussion Questions 30%
Creative Assignments 30%
Notes, Participation and Engagement 20%

***Term 2:** Quizzes 20%
Reading Responses and Discussion Questions 20%
Notes, Participation and Engagement 20%
Major Assignment 40%

Summary: Term 1: 40%, Term 2: 60% (per provincial regulation)

Branches of Philosophy



Name: _____
AMDG
Intro to Philosophy

First, philosophy is not an easy subject. **1-** In fact, it is rather difficult. This is true even for introductory courses. You will have to apply yourself to a degree matched only in

2- science or mathematics courses. Despite rumors to the contrary, reading and writing about philosophy is not like reading and writing about novels or poems or the movies.

3- Nor is writing philosophy an expression of one's feelings or ideas about life. Philosophy consists of a series of *problems* and investigations into those problems. One attempts to solve each problem by making *claims* which purport to be true, and by backing those claims with *arguments*.

5-Philosophy is akin to science in this respect. It is also like science in that it asks about the nature and functioning of various things. However, the two disciplines are concerned with quite different questions regarding these things, and this difference is what makes philosophy and its problems so peculiar and difficult. As scientists, we want to know, for example, what gravity is and how it operates; or what blood is made of and how it functions in the body.

6-As philosophers, we ask more fundamental, and hence more abstract, questions. We want to know, for example, what a person is, and how persons are different from machines or other animals; or we want to know what knowing itself is, and how it is possible to know anything at all.

