

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

**PHILOSOPHY 110 – A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

In this basic orientation, students will explore, compare, analyze, evaluate and discuss a variety of principle questions addressed in philosophy, such as: What is the purpose of my existence? Can I know anything with certainty? Do I really have a free will? Can we prove that God exists? Why should I be moral? Whose self-interest counts? Issues covered will encompass relevant philosophical perspectives from Western and other major world cultures, and include contributions of women and minority cultures to the realm of philosophy.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

Typical areas of investigation may include, but need not be confined to, the following and should include relevant cross-cultural perspectives whenever possible:

- 1) The nature and value of philosophy
- 2) Appearance and reality: form and essence, idealism, materialism, multicultural understandings of reality
- 3) Human nature: universal human nature, gender nature
- 4) Self, mind and body
- 5) Determinism and freedom
- 6) Philosophy of religion: theistic arguments and challenges, religious experience
- 7) Knowledge: belief, certainty and skepticism; empiricism and rationalism; truth
- 8) Reason and logic
- 9) Ethics: metaethics; deontological vs. teleological ethics; altruism vs. egoism; subjectivism and relativism
- 10) Political philosophy
- 11) Aesthetic values and experience
- 12) The meaning of life: happiness, challenges to meaning in life, multicultural perspectives on life, death and eternity

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and discuss the principle questions of universal concern raised in philosophy, including but not limited to the following: What is knowledge? Is there a meaning to life? Does free will exist? Why should I be moral?
- 2) Compare and contrast a variety of philosophical positions relating to the issues considered by discussing their main features and proponents.
- 3) Analyze and discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of the philosophical arguments examined using standard logic.
- 4) Identify, analyze and discuss cross-cultural perspectives relevant to the philosophical issues being considered.
- 5) Use the language, method and concepts of various philosophical traditions to begin to formulate a personal approach to selected philosophical issues.

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams and quizzes that measure students' ability to use philosophical terminology in discussing and evaluating the various philosophical questions studied in class.
- 2) Essays or term-papers that measure students' ability to discuss and evaluate various philosophical arguments discussed in class-as they relate to their strengths and weaknesses.
- 3) Homework assignments and/or presentations that measure students' ability to use philosophical arguments in developing their own position regarding philosophical questions or issues.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart classroom

**Method of Instruction**

Lecture and discussion

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Homework
- 2) Group projects
- 3) Essays

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Solomon, Robert and Kathleen Higgins. *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Cengage, 2018.
  - b. Kessler, Gary E. *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*. 9th edition. Wadsworth, 2015.
- 2) Supplemental: None

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and discuss the principle questions of universal concern raised in philosophy, including but not limited to the following: What is knowledge? Is there a meaning to life? Does free will exist? Why should I be moral?
- 2) Identify, analyze and discuss cross-cultural perspectives relevant to the philosophical issues being considered.
- 3) Use the language, method and concepts of various philosophical traditions to begin to formulate a personal approach to selected philosophical issues