

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PHILOSOPHY 115 – HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course will lead the student through a survey of ancient philosophy, with an emphasis on the development of philosophical thought from the Pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle, to the medieval period. The course will address how the questions themselves developed throughout this period, and how the approaches to answering those questions changed as well.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) The Birth of Western Philosophy: the Pre-Socratics
- 2) The Sophists and Socrates: from Nature to the Public
- 3) Plato
- 4) Aristotle
- 5) Post-Aristotelian Philosophy in Greece and Rome: the Quest for the Good Life
- 6) Neoplatonism: Plotinus and the revival of Plato's thought
- 7) Early Medieval Philosophy: Faith Seeking Understanding
- 8) Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy: Revelation and the Use of Aristotle
- 9) Latin Scholasticism and the Recovery of Aristotle and Plato

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Compare and contrast the major philosophical themes and thinkers of the ancient and medieval periods.
- 2) Analyze and describe the relation between the basic philosophical assumptions and arguments of the ancient and medieval period and their larger historical contexts.
- 3) Demonstrate philosophical thinking by correct use of terminology/argumentation in evaluating various themes discussed.
- 4) Identify and discuss the similarities and differences between the ancient and medieval approaches to philosophy, and the ways we approach philosophy today.

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 that measure students' ability to correctly use philosophical terminology and argumentation in discussing the various themes and questions raised in class.
- 2) Research papers that measure students' ability to discuss and analyze various philosophical arguments, e.g., a research paper that asks students to compare and contrast Aristotle and Plato as regards to the question of *akrasia*.
- 3) Critical reading journals and assignments in which students analyze and evaluate various philosophical themes of the ancient and medieval world in contrast to their own current views.

- 4) Homework assignments in which students must analyze and discuss various philosophical arguments studied in class, e.g., a homework assignment that requires students to outline the argument presented in a given reading in order to assess reading comprehension.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Audiovisual, multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Writing assignments, including essays
- 2) Reading assignments

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Shields, Christopher. *Ancient Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction*. 2nd edition. Routledge, 2023.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Compare and contrast the major philosophical themes and thinkers of the ancient and medieval periods.
- 2) Analyze and describe the relation between the basic philosophical assumptions and arguments of the ancient and medieval period and their larger historical contexts.
- 3) Demonstrate philosophical thinking by correct use of terminology and argumentation in evaluating the various themes discussed.