

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 100 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy I

Course Description:

Presents an introduction to philosophical problems and perspectives with emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about meaning, knowledge, reality, and values. The assignments in the course require college-level reading fluency and coherent communication through written reports. This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

General Course Purpose:

To fulfill a humanities/fine arts elective, or provide information to anyone interested in learning about philosophy.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- Identify the influences of Greek thought in the development of Western thinking;
- Identify features of Rationalist and Empiricist thinking in Western thought;
- Apply methods of analysis to determine the distinction between belief and knowledge;
- Identify characteristics of existential philosophy that are important in today's thinking; and
- Distinguish the features of Buddhist thinking from the traditional Western mindset.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- Ancient Greek Idealism: Socrates, Plato, Pre-Socratics, and Aristotle
- Nature of metaphysics and traditional metaphysical problem
- Limits and nature of language
- Empiricism, rationalism, and pragmatism
- Introduction to existential thought
- Ordinary language school of thought
- Cartesian dualism—mind/body problem

- Contrasts with Buddhism

Effective Date/Updated: October 21, 2021