

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2021

**D. Effective Term: Fall 2022**

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

G. Weekly Contact Hours:                      Lecture: 3  
  Laboratory: 0  
  Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: **Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.**

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Chair: Isabel Gutierrez                      [Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu](mailto:Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu)

Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks    [Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu](mailto:Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

**Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.**

This course is an historical and thematic introduction to philosophy, emphasizing the historical development of the discipline as well as questions about the nature of beauty, justice, knowledge,

love, morality, reality, and truth. This course will also provide students with the basic tools for critical analysis of argument frameworks as they are situated in themes in philosophy.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. The course serves as a survey of philosophy and provides background for further study in the field.
- B. There is no lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a
  - 1. Humanities Gen-ed
  - 2. Humanities elective
  - 3. Free elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective (This applies automatically to all college level credit courses in the College.)
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities.
- C. This course satisfies the humanities elective for degree programs.
- D. This course satisfies the General Education ethical reasoning and action requirement.
- E. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. What is philosophy?
  - 1. History of philosophy
  - 2. Methods of philosophy
  - 3. Philosophical Argumentation
    - a. Formal Fallacies
    - b. Informal Fallacies
- B. Ancient Philosophy
  - 1. Pre-Socratics
  - 2. Attic philosophy
  - 3. Roman philosophy
  - 4. Other ancient traditions
- C. Renaissance and modern philosophy
  - 1. Descartes
  - 2. Hobbes
  - 3. Locke
  - 4. Hume
  - 5. Kant
- D. Thematic issues:

1. Aesthetics & the nature of beauty
2. Epistemology & the nature of knowledge
3. Ethics & the nature of morality
4. Logic & the nature of argument
5. Metaphysics & the ultimate nature of reality

## **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. articulate, in speech and writing, critical responses to major philosophical problems (GE 1, 6).
2. recall and describe central concepts, terms, and theories in the field of philosophy (GE 6)
3. take a position on an ethical issue and/or situation and defend it. (GE-ERA)

### **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. analyze works in the field of philosophy (GE-6)
2. describe the development of philosophical thought concerning major questions in the field (GE 4, 5, 6);
3. critically evaluate arguments from experts in the field, including guest speakers (GE-6)

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. case studies
2. essays
3. presentations
4. projects
5. quizzes
6. reflections
7. research papers
8. tests

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. case studies
- B. class participations
- C. essays
- D. presentations
- E. projects

- F. quizzes
- G. reflections
- H. research papers
- I. tests

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture
- B. discussion
- C. film & media
- D. small-group work
- E. student oral presentations

### **VIII. Texts and Materials**

A. Suggested Textbooks (Including but not limited to):

1. Palmer, Donald. (2019) *Looking at Philosophy, the Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill: New York.
2. Solomon & Higgins. (2018). *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cengage: Los Angeles.
3. OER

**Please Note:** The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

### **IX. Resources**

- A. Classroom
- B. Academic Support Center
- C. Testing Center
- D. Library
- E. Internet Access

### **X. Honors Options [if relevant]**

N/A