

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**PHIL – 201 PROBLEMS IN PHILOSOPHY**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- (A) Course Number and Outline: Philosophy 201 Problems in Philosophy
- (B) Date of Proposal or Revision: Spring 2007
- (C) Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education
- (D) Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits
- (E) Weekly Contact Hours: 3 classroom: 3  
laboratory: 0
- (F) Prerequisites: PHIL 101 or PHIL 103
- (G) Laboratory Fees: none

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisites: PHIL 101 or PHIL 103

This is a variable content course, available as offered for repeated credit, and focusing on historical themes, individual philosophers, and specific problems in a given area of the discipline. Course themes may include such topics as the free will problem, the problem of evil, and the phenomenon of mysticism in the world's major religious traditions.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

This is an especially valuable course that will enable the department to appeal to special interests and will provide students the chance to pursue areas at greater length interest that may develop out of prior coursework and personal experience. In so doing it will provide great variety to departmental offerings without infringing on the main department curriculum.

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

- A.

- Humanities credit
- free elective.

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

(as noted, course has variable content)

## **VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes**

The exact “goals and outcomes” will vary to an extent with the nature of the course offering, but many of the preceding ones are relevant. Students will be expected to demonstrate some measure of creativity and initiative in developing an independent project for the benefit of students and instructor (GE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

## **VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

- typically informal lecture with an interactive seminar format

## **VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments**

- exam
- presentation of independent research

## **IX. Grade Determinants**

- exam
- individual research and presentation
- in-class performance

## **X. Texts and Materials**

- Again, variable content, and will typically include some primary source material with strong focus on a relatively narrow range of subject matter.

## **XI. Resources**

- texts
- whiteboard

- student research materials