



**Purpose:** It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

**Course Title** – Introduction to Philosophy

**Course Prefix and Number** - PHIL 1301

**Department** – English and Humanities

**Division** – Communications and Fine Arts

**Course Type:** (check one)

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
- Academic WCJC Core Course
- WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y  or N )

**Semester Credit Hours # : Lecture Hours # : Lab/Other Hours #**    3:3:0

**Equated Pay hours for course** - 3

**Course Catalog Description** - A study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours 0
Clinical Hours 0
Practicum Hours 0
Other (list) 0

**Prerequisites/Co-requisites** – Concurrent enrollment or completion of ENGL 1301

**Prepared by** Sharon Prince

**Date** 7-4-13

**Reviewed by Department Head** Sharon Prince

**Date** 7-4-13

**Accuracy verified by Division Chair** GG Hunt

**Date** 7-10-13

**Approved by Academic Dean** *gghunt*

**Date** 7/10/13



**I. Topical Outline** – Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, clinical or other non-lecture instruction):

- Identify the major fields of philosophy: i.e. metaphysics, epistemology, ethics.
- Explicate the purpose of philosophy, with reference to the major fields of philosophy.
- Illustrate the thoughts of major philosophers with original applications/examples.
- Compare and contrast the central ideas of major philosophers: e.g. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Bentham, Mill, Kant, James.
- Analyze the viewpoints of the major philosophers.
- Critique the arguments of major philosophers.

**II. Course Learning Outcomes**

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Methods of Assessment</b>
<p><b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.</li> <li>3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.</li> <li>4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.</li> <li>5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research paper and unit tests/final exam.</li> <li>2. Unit tests/final exam and quizzes.</li> <li>3. Research paper, class participation for face-to-face classes, and online discussions for online classes.</li> <li>4. Unit tests/final exam and essays.</li> <li>5. Unit tests/final exam, essays, class participation for face-to-face classes, and online discussions for online classes.</li> </ol>

**III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be Supplied by Student.**

Norman Melchert, *Philosophical Conversations: A Concise Historical Introduction*, Oxford UP, current edition.

**IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 30**

**V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.**

NA

**VI. Course Requirements/Grading System – Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course**

Unit tests: 25-50%

Research paper: 25-40%

Final exam: 25-40%

Class participation/online discussions: 15-30%

90-100—A; 80-89—B; 70-79—C, 60-69—D, 59 and below F

**VII. Curriculum Checklist**

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)  
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**  
Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

- **WECM Courses**  
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist.



**Core Curriculum Review Form**

Foundational Component Area: **Language, Philosophy, & Culture** Course Prefix & Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Core Objective: **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

*Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:*

*For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.*

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing <input type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> State Mandated			

Department Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Core Curriculum Review Form**

Foundational Component Area: **Language, Philosophy, & Culture** Course Prefix & Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Core Objective: **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

*Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:*

*For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.*

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
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Department Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Core Curriculum Review Form**

Foundational Component Area: **Language, Philosophy, & Culture** Course Prefix & Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Core Objective: **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

*Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:*

*For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.*

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
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Department Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Core Curriculum Review Form**

Foundational Component Area: **Language, Philosophy, & Culture** Course Prefix & Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_

Core Objective: **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

*Student Learning Outcome supporting core objective:*

*For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.*

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
The SLO is:	Insert SLO (from Administrative Master Syllabi) below	Provide a brief name and description of the sample learning activity:	Provide a brief name and description of the sample quiz, exam, rubric, assignment, etc. for assessing the objective:
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Department Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_