

Northwest Arkansas Community College
Philosophy Course

PHIL. 2003: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Catalog Description

A survey of basic philosophical topics such as the nature of the human mind, freedom of will and standards of right and wrong. Representative philosophical problems will be proposed and examined.

Prerequisite: None.

Credit hours/Contact hours/ Load hours: 3/3/3

Target Audience and Transfer:

This course is designed for students seeking an Associate of Arts degree and for students transferring to the University of Arkansas. PHIL 2203 will transfer to the University of Arkansas.

General Course Outcomes:

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Students completing this course should

- a. be acquainted with the writings of some of the most influential philosophers in the West,
- b. have a much better idea of what philosophy is and what philosophers do
- c. be able think more clearly and critically about their own beliefs as well as other issues.

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Required Text:

Doing Philosophy: An Introduction through Thought Experiments, 3rd ed., ed. by Theodore Schick, Jr. and Lewis Vaughn, McGraw-Hill publishing Company, 2005.

Topics Include Some Or All of the Following:

1. The Philosophical Enterprise
2. The Mind-Body Problem
3. Free will and Determinism
4. The Problem of Personal Identity
5. The Problem of Relativism and Morality
6. The Problem of Evil and the Existence of God
7. The Problem of Skepticism and Knowledge

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Required Methods of Instruction:

Individual instructors may design the course in any number of ways, keeping course objectives in mind. These may include lecture, audio-visual materials, guest speakers, field trips, oral presentations, book reviews, and research papers.

Required Forms of Assessment:

Individual instructors have broad latitude in making assessments. Instructors are expected to include some form of essay question on the exam(s).