



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	PHIL 100	Course Title	Knowledge and Reality			
Credit Value	3	Department	Humanities			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			2	1	0	3
Course Description	<p>An introduction to some of the central problems of philosophy, specifically in the study of metaphysics (the nature of reality) and epistemology (the nature of knowledge and justification). These fields are approached by addressing particular issues, such as skepticism, personal identity, the nature of the mind and its relation to the body, and free will and determinism.</p>					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 099					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	PHIL 101 (3)	PHIL 100 (3) B-Hum	PHIL 100 Lev (1.5)	PHIL 1XX (3)	PHIL 1100 (3)	
	<p>For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca</p>					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and explain some of the central theories in philosophy through the critical reading of classical and modern philosophical texts. Demonstrate an understanding of key topics of epistemology and metaphysics through written assignments and discussions of these topics. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of classical and modern philosophical theories about key topics in epistemology and metaphysics and express that evaluation in cogent, rational argumentative essays. Identify and explain some of the central problems in epistemology and metaphysics through the critical reading of classical and modern philosophical texts and express these ideas in cogent, rational academic essays. Develop and articulate personal philosophical positions on some of these issues in classroom discussions and/or written submissions. Recognize that critical thinking is an important academic tool that can be applied across disciplines. 					



Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments • Skepticism • Possibility & Necessity • Free Will, Determinism & Compatibilism • Mind-Body problem • Time • Personal Identity <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor.</p>	
Methods of Instruction	Lecture, class discussion, small group discussion	
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Bailey, Andrew (ed.). <i>First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy, Volume II: Knowledge and Reality</i>, Broadview Press.</p> <p>Perry, John, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer. <i>Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Pojman, Louis., and Lewis Vaughn (eds). <i>Philosophy: The Quest for Truth</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Rauhut, Nils Ch. And Renee Smith (eds). <i>Readings on the Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy</i>. Pearson Education (Penguin)</p> <p>Vaughn, Lewis, and Jillian Scott McIntosh. <i>Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>	
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 	
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.	
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>
	<p>Quizzes, participation, and in-class assignments</p> <p>Essays and other written assignments</p> <p>Final examination</p> <p><i>*This course can be conducted successfully in different ways, hence the ranges.</i></p>	<p>20-50%</p> <p>30-60%</p> <p>30-50%</p>
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.	



Course Designer(s)	Norman Swartz, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University	Consultant(s), <i>if applicable</i>	Jillian McIntosh, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University
Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	September 27, 2006
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	September 27, 2006	First Term Offered	Winter 2013
Last Review Date	July 30, 2025	Next Review Date	July 30, 2030
Revision History	<p>December 27, 2005-Initial approval by Norman Swartz, SFU.</p> <p>July 1, 2014-Updated by Jill McIntosh.</p> <p>April 29, 2015-Library resources added by Librarians, AC.</p> <p>February 1, 2016 – Library resources updated by Jill McIntosh.</p> <p>January 24, 2020 – Major revision by Jill McIntosh (course description, learning outcomes, topics)</p> <p>August 5, 2025 - Reviewed by Jill McIntosh, no changes</p>		