

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: PHILO1003

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): (Two 1000 level courses)

Co-requisite(s): (Two 1000 level courses)

Exclusion(s): (Two 1000 level courses)

ASCED Code: 091701

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Understand the philosophical and historical work of selected key thinkers and movements in the tradition of Classical Philosophy
- K2.** Recognise the influence exerted by Classical philosophy upon historical and contemporary Western ideas concerning: metaphysics; epistemology and scientific methodology; ethics; and theories of subjectivity
- K3.** Evaluate and compare the various strains of Classical philosophy within their respective historical and cultural contexts.

Skills:

- S1.** Demonstrate critical textual analysis and exegesis
- S2.** Articulate an informed perspective
- S3.** Analyse, evaluate and critically engage with contrasting philosophical positions
- S4.** Undertake independent research to deepen critical understanding of Classical philosophical traditions and texts.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Recognise and reflect on the relations between different philosophical positions and traditions and their cultural contexts.

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- Articulate and justify a philosophical position in a clear and well-structured manner in verbal or written form, demonstrating familiarity with the conventions and techniques of philosophical scholarship.
- A2.**

Course Content:

This course is an historical introduction to selected key thinkers and movements in the tradition of Classical Philosophy, with an emphasis upon metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and theories of subjectivity. Students will study pre-Socratic philosophy (Thales, Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, and the Sophists) and thinkers associated with Athens and the Athenian Academy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle). The aim of the course is to explore the various strains of Classical philosophy in terms of their respective historical and cultural contexts, while at the same time examining the influence exerted by Classical philosophy upon historical and contemporary Western ideas concerning: metaphysics; epistemology; scientific methodology; the self and the relationship between body and soul; and what it means to live well.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Develop the capacity to see philosophical problems within their cultural contexts
- V2.** Recognise and respect the variety of perspectives on and critical approaches to philosophical positions
- V3.** Develop an awareness of the continuing relevance of Classical philosophy to debates in modern Western culture
- V4.** Respect other cultural traditions.
- V5.** Respect the procedures of disciplined philosophical argumentation.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will develop skills in comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creative thinking	High
Self Reliance	Students will build on their skills in continuous learning, personal organisation, communication, independent thinking and research, initiative, and creativity.	High
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop respect for and an informed perspective regarding the conceptual frameworks and traditions of Classical philosophy	Medium
Social Responsibility	Students reflect on and gain respect for differing conceptual frameworks and cultural traditions.	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, S1, S2,	Demonstrate understanding of key concepts, arguments and texts in response to short answer questions.	Reading Exercise.	20-30%

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Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2	Analysis, research and argument. Draw up an essay plan detailing how a position on a contested philosophical topic can be developed and defended.	Essay Plan	10-20%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, S4, A1, A2	Analysis, research and argument. Develop and defend a position on a contested philosophical topic by marshalling support, comparing competing viewpoints and drawing conclusions.	Research Essay.	30-40%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, S4, A2	Present ideas and arguments pertinent to one course topic.	Presentation.	10-15%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Make informed contributions to course activities and discussion; discuss course texts and ideas in a clear and coherent manner.	Participation and Contribution.	5-10%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago