

**Course Outline**  
**PHIL 101**  
**Introduction to Philosophy**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Introduction to Philosophy

Explores the use of critical analysis to examine philosophical issues; covers the meaning of human existence, the justification of ethical choices, human knowledge, the question of whether God exists, and the nature of reality. Emphasizes the relevance of philosophy to everyday situations.

Prerequisite: exemption from or successful completion of (ENGL 052 or LVE 2), (ESOL 052 or LVE 2) and (RDNG 052 or LVR 2) or (MATH 081 or LVM 1)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain and demonstrate how critical analysis is an essential part of philosophizing (I, VI, 6, 7);
2. show an awareness of the influence that cultural and social orientations have on the development and acceptance/rejection of various philosophical theories (IV, V, 2, 3, 4, 5);
3. logically evaluate a philosophical argument or position (II, VI, 1, 2);
4. explain the importance and relevance of rationally and constructively questioning basic beliefs and assumptions (III, IV, VI, 5, 6);
5. speak and write clearly about philosophical issues (II, 1,);
6. identify major subdivisions within the discipline of philosophy (I, 3);
7. identify core ideas of some famous and influential philosophers (I, 3, 4, 5);
8. distinguish between subjective opinions and justified philosophical claims (I, III, IV, V, VI, 6, 7);

9. identify the different conceptions of human nature that are implied by different philosophical theories (III, V, VI, 4);
10. identify ways in which philosophy is a dynamic discipline which is responsive to new discoveries in related fields (III, IV, 2);
11. identify the value and role of electronic media in philosophical research and analysis (IV, 2).

### **Major Topics**

1. The nature of philosophical inquiry and critical thinking
2. Issues in Metaphysics
3. Problems in Epistemology
4. Ethics as theory and practice
5. Social/Political philosophy in the contemporary world

### **Course Requirements (General Education Goal # VII)**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

1. A minimum of three exams or a minimum of two exams plus quizzes consisting of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components.
2. Written assignment(s) that allow for analysis of primary and/or secondary sources. Sources may include books, articles, and on-line electronic media. Written assignments must total a minimum of 500 words.
3. A minimum of two collaborative learning projects or assignments either in class and/or out of class.
4. At least one individual or group oral presentation.

## **Other Course Information**

PHIL 101 fulfills three credits of the General Education requirement for Arts and Humanities.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending classes, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities and preparing for class.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvement of CCBC's courses and programs.