

# Common Course Outline

## PHIL 101

### Introduction to Philosophy I

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

**PHIL 101- 3 credits - Introduction to Philosophy** emphasizes the use of critical analysis and critical thinking applications to examine philosophical issues. Among these are understanding philosophical and scientific similarities and differences, analyzing the meaning of human existence, explaining and justifying ethical choices, exploring and recognizing the nature, sources, and limits of human knowledge, the question of whether God exists, how one justifies an answer to this question, and different theories about the nature of reality. The course actively engages and encourages students to recognize and associate the relevance of philosophy to everyday phenomena by utilizing active critical analysis to attempt to understand and integrate human experiences within a philosophical paradigm.

### 3 Credits

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 and MATH 081

### Overall Course Objectives

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

1. demonstrate how critical analysis is an essential part of philosophizing;
2. explain the influence that cultural, ethical, and social orientations have on the development and acceptance/rejection of various philosophical theories;
3. logically evaluate a philosophical argument or position;
4. explain the importance and relevance of rationally and constructively questioning basic beliefs and assumption;
5. speak and write clearly about philosophical issues;
6. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic sources;
7. analyze the use of technology on modern thought and discuss relevant ethical ramifications;
8. utilize technology to research philosophical issues;
9. identify and describe major subdivisions within the discipline of philosophy;
10. identify and characterize the core ideas of major philosophers and philosophical tenets chosen from diverse cultures;
11. distinguish between diverse opinions, ethical and justified philosophical claims;
12. describe varied conceptions of human nature that are implied by different philosophical theories, and

13. describe ways in which philosophy is a dynamic discipline which is responsive to new discoveries in related fields.

### **Major Topics**

- I. The nature of philosophical inquiry and critical thinking
- II. Metaphysics
- III. Epistemology
- IV. Ethical theory and practice and local and global diversity with regard to philosophy
- V. Social/political philosophy in the contemporary, local, and global society
- VI. Research and academic writing on a philosophical topic

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments and will be determined by the individual faculty member who will administer specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance. These will be described in the course syllabus and will include the following:

Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth at least 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 following General Education Program outcomes:

1. written/oral communication;
2. critical analysis and reasoning;
3. technological competence;
4. information literacy;
5. scientific and quantitative or logical reasoning;
6. local and global diversity; and
7. personal and professional ethics.

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments. These may reflect any combination of the following:

1. a minimum of three exams or a minimum of two exams plus two quizzes consisting of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components.
2. a minimum of two written assignments that allow for analysis of primary and/or secondary sources. Sources may include books, articles, and on-line or electronic media. written assignment(s) must total a minimum of 1000 words.
3. the completion of a research project exploring a philosopher, philosophical theory, or philosophical topic relative to the course topic.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources. Students are required to refrain from plagiarism, using another's work, and comply with the CCBC Student Code of Ethics in managing classroom interactions with faculty and co-learners.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

**Rev. March 27, 2015**