



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	PHIL
Course Number:	112
Descriptive Title:	History of Modern Philosophy
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Philosophy
Course Disciplines:	Philosophy
Catalog Description:	This course addresses 16th through 18th century Western philosophy with an emphasis on broad epistemological and metaphysical developments in philosophical thought from Descartes to Kant, and may include some precursors and successors. Some of the concepts explored include empiricism, rationalism, idealism, the limits of knowledge, skepticism, the nature of reality, and arguments for and against the existence of God.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Enrollment Limitation:	
Course Length:	Full Term
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	12/15/2014
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Proposed
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	Fall 2015
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities

Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Major Modern Philosophers</p> <p>Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the main philosophies of the major Modern philosophers and their arguments for their positions.</p> <p>SLO #2 Major Ideas and Issues</p> <p>Students will be able to explain the major ideas and issues addressed by the Modern philosophers, including the concepts of empiricism, rationalism, idealism, the existence or non-existence of God, the attributes of God, and the limits of human knowledge in general and of reason in particular.</p> <p>SLO #3 How Modern Philosophy Departs from Earlier Medieval Philosophy</p> <p>Students will be able to show an understanding of how Modern Philosophy departs from earlier Medieval Philosophy, with particular attention to the willingness to question past epistemological and metaphysical/religious beliefs and be able to describe how the Modern philosophers laid the groundwork for, later philosophical explorations.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate mastery of critical philosophical skills based on readings of primary texts by accurately presenting and interpreting the positions of 16th and 18th century Western philosophers. 2. Critically analyze and evaluate arguments, assumptions, principles, and methods of 16th and 18th Century Western philosophers. 3. Identify the ways in which the Protestant Reformation and the early Scientific Revolution influenced Modern philosophers. 4. Explain and compare empiricism and rationalism, and identify the Modern philosophers associated with each. 5. Describe and compare the different types of skepticism, including Descartes' methodological skepticism and Hume's mitigated skepticism. 6. Explain the beliefs and evaluate the arguments of the various Modern philosophers about both the existence or nonexistence of God and the nature and attributes of God. 7. Describe, compare, and contrast the different concepts of idealism developed by Berkeley and Kant. 8. Describe and compare the various epistemological positions of the Modern philosophers, especially Hume and Kant, regarding the limits of human knowledge and of reason. 9. Assess the nature of reality according to the different Modern philosophers. 10. Describe how the Modern philosophers laid the groundwork for many of the issues later explored by Contemporary philosophers, such as the meaning of life and moral relativism versus moral objectivism.
Major Topics	<p>I. Precursors to Modern Philosophy (4 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Medieval Philosophy</p> <p>B. Philosophy of the Renaissance</p>

C. Protestant Reformation

D. Scientific Revolution

II. Descartes (8 hours, lecture)

A. Methodological Skepticism

B. Rationalism

C. Degrees of Certainty

D. The Nature of Mind and of Matter

E. Argument for Mind-Body Dualism

F. Arguments for God's Existence

III. Hobbes (4 hours, lecture)

A. Social Contract

B. Secular Political Philosophy

C. Ethical Egoism

IV. Spinoza (6 hours, lecture)

A. His Method

B. Rationalism

C. Questioning God's Attributes

D. Argument for God's Existence

E. The Nature of Substance

F. The Nature of Human Beings

V. Locke (6 hours, lecture)

A. Empiricism

B. Primary Versus Secondary Qualities

C. Political Theory: Constitutional Government in the Interests of the Governed

D. Political Theory: Social Contract

VI. Leibniz (6 hours, lecture)

A. Religion: Best of All Possible Worlds

- B. Mechanistic World
- C. Principle of Sufficient Reason
- D. Monads and True Reality
- E. Necessity, Contingency, and Freedom

VII. Berkeley (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Idealism/Immaterialism

VIII. Hume (8 hours, lecture)

- A. Empiricism
- B. Hume's Fork
- C. Problem of Induction
- D. Causation
- E. Determinism Versus Free Will
- F. Mitigated Skepticism
- G. Attack on Metaphysics and Religion
- H. Arguments Against God's Existence
- I. Miracles
- J. Virtue Ethics
- K. Personal Identity

IX. Kant (8 hours, lecture)

- A. Reason and Its Limits
- B. Things in Themselves
- C. Knowledge Limited to Appearances
- D. Idealism, or Not?
- E. Free Will Versus Determinism
- F. Arguments For and Against "God"
- G. Deontological Ethics

	H. Human Autonomy
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Summarize Hume's famous Problem of Induction. Can this problem be solved? In a two- to three-page essay explain why or why not.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a three- to four-page essay, compare and contrast the epistemological views of Kant and Hume regarding metaphysics, i.e. what does each philosopher think are the limits of human knowledge regarding the existence of metaphysical things such as God, and why does he think so? Which view do you find more persuasive and why?
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a three-page essay, compare and contrast the views of empiricism and rationalism. Which do you find more persuasive and why? Which of the Modern philosophers support your views?
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	Forrest E. Baird, <u>Modern Philosophy, Volume III</u> , 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2011. Discipline Standard Robert Cummins and David Owens, <u>Central Reading in the History of Modern Philosophy</u> , 2nd ed., Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1999. Discipline Standard Louis Pojman, <u>Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, Classics of Philosophy Volume II</u> , 1st ed., Oxford University Press, 1998. Discipline Standard Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins, <u>Modern Philosophy, An Anthology of Primary Sources</u> , 3rd ed., Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2019. Margaret Atherton (Ed.), <u>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</u> , Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1994. Discipline Standard
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	

Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
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Requisite course:	English 1 or
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing written reports, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. ENGL 1 - Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. ENGL 1 - Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Requisite:	eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	This course involves reading college level textbooks, writing assignments, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Randall Firestone
Date:	02/24/2014
Board Approval Date:	12/15/2014
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Felipe Leon