

## **Philosophy 101**

### ***Introduction to Philosophy***

*3 unit; 3 hours lecture*

*Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment  
Degree applicable Transfer CSU and UC*

This course investigates the big questions of philosophy, such as: What is the meaning of life? What can I know? Do I have free will? How do we know we are not living in a computer simulation? Emphasis is on how philosophers go about answering such questions, and how these questions are relevant to our lives.

*Note: Students may take either Philosophy 101 or Philosophy 101H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.*

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues.
  - Essay exams
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods.
  - Essay exams
3. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions.
  - Essay exams
4. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.
  - Essay exams
5. Explain and differentiate three main areas of philosophy: ethics, epistemology and metaphysics.
  - Essay exams
6. Explain the difference between knowledge and beliefs about the physical world (the realm of science) and knowledge and beliefs about moral issues and metaphysical things such as God, Heaven and Hell, and souls.
  - Essay exams
7. Assess and explain perspectives and outlooks on life that are beyond traditional societal paradigms, such as minority, feminist and Taoist perspectives.
  - Essay exams
8. Distinguish between normative and descriptive ethics.
  - Essay exams
9. Explain the difference between duty ethics and consequentialism, and illustrate this difference by applying the theories to an ethical problem.
  - Essay exams
10. Differentiate moral relativism from moral objectivism, and explain their relationship to contemporary moral issues.
  - Essay exams
11. Discuss and analyze what constitutes a good and fulfilling life, such as the roles of money and happiness.
  - Essay exams
12. Clarify the difference between conviction, belief and knowledge.
  - Essay exams
13. Identify and analyze metaphysical problems, such as the problem of free will versus determinism; the existence of God; the ultimate nature of reality; and the nature and existence of consciousness.
  - Essay exams
14. Compare and contrast epistemological theories concerning the source, extent and limits of knowledge.
  - Essay exams
15. Analyze different systems of government, focusing especially on their justifications and their assumptions about human nature.

- Essay exams

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

1. Epistemological Terminology Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the basic epistemological terminology and issues, such as the source and basis of our beliefs, empiricism v. rationalism, and the problem of induction.
2. Metaphysical Concepts and Arguments Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the metaphysical concepts and arguments regarding such issues as free will v. determinism, the mind-body problem, and whether God exists.
3. Morality Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of some of the basic issues and topics related to morality, such as justice, minority perspectives, moral objectivism vs. moral relativism, various ethical theories, and/or a basic understanding of how those theories can be applied to contemporary moral issues.

### **ADA Statement:**

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

### **Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>