

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PHILOSOPHY 117 – HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course will lead the student through a survey of philosophy from the Renaissance to the 21st century, with an emphasis on how modern scientific processes contributed to the development of empiricism, rationalism, and idealism. The course will address how modern thinkers approached traditional questions, often leading to new questions as well as new ways of attempting to answer them.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Renaissance
- 2) Reformation
- 3) Science and scientific method
- 4) Hobbes: its method and scope
- 5) Descartes
- 6) Spinoza
- 7) Leibniz
- 8) Locke
- 9) Berkeley
- 10) Hume
- 11) Kant: theory of knowledge
- 12) The 19th century roots of contemporary thought
- 13) The analytic tradition
- 14) The existentialist/phenomenological tradition
- 15) The later Wittgenstein

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Compare and contrast the major philosophical themes and thinkers of the modern and contemporary period.
- 2) Analyze and describe the relation between the basic philosophical assumptions of these periods and their larger historical contexts.
- 3) Demonstrate philosophical thinking by correct use of terminology and argumentation in evaluating the various themes discussed.
- 4) Identify and discuss the similarities and differences between the modern and contemporary approaches to philosophy and earlier/other approaches.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams that measure students' ability to correctly use philosophical terminology and argumentation in discussing the various themes and questions presented in class.
- 2) Research papers that measure students' ability to discuss and analyze various philosophical arguments. For example, a research paper that asks students to compare and contrast Hume and Descartes as regards to the question of the reliability of sense experience.
- 3) Critical reading journals and assignments in which students analyze and evaluate various philosophical themes of the modern and contemporary world in contrast to their own views.
- 4) Homework assignments in which students must analyze and discuss the various philosophical arguments studied in class. For example, a homework assignment that requires students to outline the argument presented in a given reading in order to assess reading comprehension.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Audiovisual, multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Homework
- 2) Essays
- 3) Journals

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example):
 - a. Marshall, Eugene and Susanne Sreedhar. *A New Modern Philosophy: The Inclusive Anthology of Primary Sources*. 1st edition. Routledge, 2019.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Compare and contrast the major philosophical themes and thinkers of the modern and contemporary period.
- 2) Analyze and describe the relation between the basic philosophical assumptions of these periods and their larger historical contexts.
- 3) Demonstrate philosophical thinking by correct use of terminology and argumentation in evaluating the various themes discussed.