

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

PHIL 11003 Introduction to Philosophy

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Survey of history and fundamental issues of philosophy in Western Civilization. (ACTS: PHIL 1103).

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Explain the importance of philosophy to human development.
2. Identify the major philosophical principles and issues.
3. Describe the major positions that have been put forward in response to philosophical questions.
4. Analyze some of the common arguments used to justify ethical decision making or reasoning.
5. Develop his/her own personal philosophy.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Students will analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will examine moral dilemmas and problems that arise.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will make oral presentations and prepare written documents to develop conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to successfully communicate philosophical ideas to a wide audience.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will demonstrate understanding of the role that philosophy has had in shaping cultures throughout the world.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Review of basic ethical theories and types of philosophical arguments
- B. History of philosophical theory in ancient writings
- C. Philosophical revisionism from ancient to modern times
- D. The relation between philosophical thinking with ethics and reasoning
- E. The variations of philosophy based on cultural or ethnic differences around the world