

This instructor is SACS qualified to teach this course regularly at his/her TBR Institution

TENNESSEE CONSORTIUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SYLLABUS

Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 1030

Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

An investigation of the fundamental questions pertaining to reality, truth, freedom, the nature of humankind, the existence of God and social/political theory.

How Program Site Will Be Incorporated into the Course:

In addition to traveling to Oxford and Cambridge (and to making visits to some of the “regular tourist sites”), we will visit the following places in London (all of which are relevant in various ways to the philosophers studied in the course): University College London, the British Museum/British Library, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, and the Parliament.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites.

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Students will read/study about fifteen articles which were written by the (roughly) ten philosophers studied in the course. These articles will be distributed to students at the first class meeting.

I. Weeks/Units/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Philosophy and the origins of western philosophy in ancient Greece, and the early development of philosophy in Rome/Europe. There will be readings by Plato, Aristotle, St. Anselm, and several others.

- 2 **The political/moral/social philosophy of John Locke, Jeremy Bentham, and John Stuart Mill.**
- 3 **The skeptical/agnostic philosophy of David Hume and Bertrand Russell.**

II. Course Objectives:

- A. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophy. I.5**
- B. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the various branches of philosophy. I.5**
- C. Demonstrate a better sense of the questions/problems that have occupied famous philosophers during the last twenty-five centuries. I.5, III.2**
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the lives and basic ideas of [ten or twelve] famous philosophers. I.5**
- E. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about these philosophical questions/problems. III. 1, III. 2**
- F. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about various other philosophical issues. III.1, III. 2**
- G. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues I.3, I.4, I.5, III.1, III. 2**

III. Instructional Processes:

- 1. Read and study the assigned readings. Communication Outcome, Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, History Outcome**
- 2. Attend lectures about the materials. Communication Outcome, Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, History Outcome**
- 3. Participate in discussions about the material. Communication Outcome, Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, History Outcome**
- 4. Write essays about the material. Communication Outcome, Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome**
- 5. Become more tolerant of the ideas of others. Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome**
- 6. Participate in all of the class trips/visits. Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, History Outcome**
- 7. Be encouraged to live a life enriched by some of the best ideas born in some of the greatest minds that have ever existed. Humanities and/or Fine Arts Outcome, History Outcome**

IV. Expectations for Student Performance:

In addition to traveling to the homeland of some of the most important British philosophers, students who complete this course will:

- 1. be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophy;**

2. be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the various branches of philosophy;
3. be able to demonstrate knowledge of the lives and ideas of four/five of the most famous British philosophers;
4. be able to demonstrate some understanding of the questions/problems that have occupied philosophers during the last twenty-five centuries;
5. be able to demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about these philosophical questions/problems;
6. be able to demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about various other philosophical issues;
7. be able to demonstrate an enhanced ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues in general; and
8. be able to demonstrate an understanding of the virtues inherent in a life driven by a genuine “love of wisdom.”

V. Evaluation:

The course grade will be an average of three grades. These three grades will be determined on the basis of the following: (1) Being a “good traveler” as well as an active participant on the program’s required field trips; (2) a mid-term essay exam; and (3) a final essay exam.

Grading Scale:

100-90	= A
89-87	= B+
86-80	= B
79-77	= C+
76-70	= C
69-60	= D
59-00	= F

VI. Policies:

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

Academic Dishonesty:

No academic dishonesty will be permitted. All forms of academic dishonesty will result in immediate removal from the program.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.