

SYLLABUS
PART I
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHI 121S INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of classical and contemporary philosophy through selected metaphysical and epistemological problems. Students will pursue a systematic study of enduring human concerns about God, society, the self, and knowledge. Theories of reality, belief, truth, knowledge, and evidence are examined.

COURSE GOALS

The student will:

1. Have a basic understanding of the nature of philosophy.
2. Be able to explain the work of the philosopher.
3. Develop the skill of critical thinking.
4. Develop the skills and perspectives needed for the effective presentation of sound arguments.
5. Be able to explain theories of knowledge and reality.
6. Be able to examine enduring human concerns as to the most plausible reasons for and against proposed solutions.
7. Be aware that the problem of knowledge and reality bear upon everyday living, and that an excellent quality of life is realized through sound judgment.

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles which guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. The Nature of Philosophy
2. Truth, Knowledge, Goodness
3. Rationalism
4. Empiricism
5. Materialism
6. Naturalism
7. Idealism
8. The Self
9. The Existence of God