

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number: PHI 101**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Philosophy

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Introduces a broad spectrum of philosophical problems and perspectives with an emphasis on the systematic questioning of basic assumptions about meaning, knowledge, reality, and values.

Prerequisite: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:**

To fulfill liberal arts elective focusing on enhancing students' critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test.

**Course Objectives** (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the influences of Greek rational thought in the development of Western thinking;
- B. Identify features of Cartesian thinking in Western thought;
- C. Apply Wittgenstein's methods of analysis to determine the distinction between metaphysical belief and knowledge;
- D. Identify characteristics of existential philosophy that are important in today's thinking;
- E. Distinguish the features of Buddhist thinking from the traditional Western mindset.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- A. Ancient Greek Idealism: Socrates, Plato, Pre-Socratics and Aristotle
- B. Nature of metaphysics and traditional metaphysical problem
- C. Limits and nature of language
- D. Empiricism, rationalism, and pragmatism
- E. Introduction to existential thought
- F. Ordinary language school of thought
- G. Cartesian dualism—mind/body problem
- H. Contrasts with Buddhism

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** January 20, 2003