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