



COURSE OUTLINE: LIB210 - THE GREAT THINKERS

Prepared: General Arts and Science Department

Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	LIB210: THE GREAT THINKERS (INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY)
Program Number: Name	1105: GAS - ONE-YEAR 1115: GAS-UNIV TRANSFER
Department:	GENERAL ARTS & SCIENCE
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course traces the development of philosophical thought through eastern and western roots and focuses upon wisdom as its key concept. Wisdom concerns what is true and important and makes the gaining of knowledge not so much an objective but rather a means to applying what we have learned in a worthwhile manner in our lives. Thus, while you explore the likes of Plato, Aristotle, Kant, and Marx in terms of their historical context and philosophical differences, the subject matter will always be topical, accessible, and relevant. While the course necessarily introduces such concepts as the language of logic, metaphysics, dialectic technique, ethics, etc. and uses them in the analysis of different philosophical positions, all subjects are approached in a down-to-earth manner that in no way trivializes them, but rather demands student participation and the forging of connection between thought and action.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	<p>1105 - GAS - ONE-YEAR</p> <p>VLO 1 Develop, through general knowledge gained in a wide range of subjects, insight into both self and society.</p> <p>VLO 2 Develop flexibility and clarity of both thought and expression in order to develop communications competence to a level required by business and industry.</p> <p>VLO 3 Understand and utilize critical thinking processes and problem solving techniques.</p> <p>VLO 4 Examine and evaluate various aspects of our changing society to assist in developing a sense of personal and social responsibility as a citizen in society.</p> <p>VLO 5 Employ basic vocational skills drawn from the areas of the Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences of Vocational Studies (Business, Technology).</p> <p>1115 - GAS-UNIV TRANSFER</p> <p>VLO 1 Develop, through general knowledge gained in a wide range of subjects, insight into both self and society.</p> <p>VLO 2 Develop flexibility and clarity of both thought and expression in order to develop communications competence to a level required by business and industry.</p>
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	



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Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.</p> <p>EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.</p> <p>EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.</p> <p>EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.</p> <p>EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.</p> <p>EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.</p> <p>EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.</p> <p>EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.</p> <p>EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.</p>				
Course Evaluation:	<p>Passing Grade: 50%, D</p> <p>A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.</p>				
Books and Required Resources:	<p>Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy by Douglas J. Soccio Publisher: Cengage Learning Edition: 7th edition ISBN: 9780495603825 Additional course readings and resource materials are available through LMS.</p>				
Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Outcome 1</th> <th>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Define basic philosophical concepts and terminology.</td> <td> 1.1 Define the term philosophy. 1.2 Distinguish between belief, opinion, knowledge and truth. 1.3 Discuss why Socrates declared that the unexamined life is not worth living. 1.4 Examine the Socratic Method and how Socrates used it in the search of understanding. 1.5 Summarize Plato`s Allegories of the Cave, Divided Line, and Chariot. 1.6 Examine Aristotle`s conceptions of Arete, Eudaimonia and the Golden Mean. 1.7 Describe the Method of Doubt and how Descartes used it in the search of Absolute Truth. 1.8 Discuss Berkeley and Locke`s understanding of Primary and Secondary Qualities. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1	1. Define basic philosophical concepts and terminology.	1.1 Define the term philosophy. 1.2 Distinguish between belief, opinion, knowledge and truth. 1.3 Discuss why Socrates declared that the unexamined life is not worth living. 1.4 Examine the Socratic Method and how Socrates used it in the search of understanding. 1.5 Summarize Plato`s Allegories of the Cave, Divided Line, and Chariot. 1.6 Examine Aristotle`s conceptions of Arete, Eudaimonia and the Golden Mean. 1.7 Describe the Method of Doubt and how Descartes used it in the search of Absolute Truth. 1.8 Discuss Berkeley and Locke`s understanding of Primary and Secondary Qualities.
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Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Identify the key movements in philosophy and link individual philosophers with these movements.	2.1 Identify the primary areas of philosophy and the kinds of questions they examine (e.g. metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, etc.) 2.2 Describe the Pre-Socratics and the beginnings of philosophy. 2.3 Recognize the significance of the Axial Age in history of philosophy. 2.4 Examine some of the main concepts from Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism 2.5 Discuss the nature of Epistemology in the Modern period. 2.6 Define Rationalism and Empiricism and match these theories to different philosophers. 2.7 Examine the core concepts of Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Character Ethics. 2.8 Recognize some of the main themes in Existentialism and Postmodernism.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Paraphrase and summarize the key elements of these philosophers' views.	3.1 Discuss the Dialectic Method and how Socrates used it in the search of understanding. 3.2 Examine Plato's Theory of the Forms and the conception of Innate Ideas. 3.3 Summarize Locke's critique of Innate Ideas and the notion of Tabula Rasa. 3.4 Outline Hume's critique of reason as it pertains to being a slave to the passions. 3.5 Discuss why Mill declared that It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied. 3.6 Describe Marx's Dialectic Process (i.e., Thesis, Antithesis and Synthesis). 3.7 Summarize Nietzsche's concepts of the Will to Power, Ubermensch, Master and Slave Morality.
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Apply these elements to current life situations.	4.1 Illustrate the difference between a priori and a posteriori knowledge. 4.2 Classify examples of moral, amoral and immoral actions. 4.3 Determine Aristotle's Golden Mean between various extremes by way of examples. 4.4 Articulate the Stoic the distinction between Influences and Control. 4.5 Illustrate the difference between the theories of Empiricism and Rationalism. 4.6 Show how Kant's Epistemology has elements from both Empiricism and Rationalism. 4.7 Explain the Existential concepts of meaning, forlornness, angst, freedom, and responsibility.
Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
5. Analyze philosophical views by discussing and	5.1 Critique arguments in favor and against relativism. 5.2 Analyze the difference between Idealism and Materialism



	debating the issues.	5.3 Explain acts of Will and Inclination as they pertain to Kant's philosophy 5.4 Differentiate between Freewill and Determinism. 5.5 Compare and contrast different Theories of Knowledge. 5.6 Analyze the position of Existence precedes Essence and vice versa. 5.7 Outline the nature of suffering and pain (mental and physical), pleasure and happiness. 5.8 Compare and contrast Eastern and Western philosophical traditions.
	Course Outcome 6	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 6
	6. Argue, in oral and written form, the strengths and/or weaknesses of certain philosophical positions.	6.1 Consider personal identity and consciousness in relation to different philosophical theories. 6.2 Justify various philosophical attempts to describe the meaning of life. 6.3 Summarize the reason versus instinct debate and assess the merits of each. 6.4 Deconstruct and explain Descartes' statement I think therefore I am. 6.5 Evaluate the Rationalist and Empiricist distinction between Mind and Matter. 6.6 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Utilitarianism, Deontology, and Character Ethics. 6.7 Consider Marx's conceptions of species life and alienation, as well as his critique of capitalism.
	Course Outcome 7	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 7
	7. Appreciate and be open to well-developed philosophical views that are in disagreement with your own views.	7.1 Examine various philosophical puzzles, paradoxes and thought experiments. 7.2 Discuss common sense, truth, skepticism, knowledge, belief, opinion. 7.3 Consider the nature of reality, being, existence and nothingness. 7.4 Define moral, immoral and amoral and match them to the correct school of philosophy. 7.5 Analyze the nature of good versus evil, right versus wrong, nature versus nurture. 7.6 Distinguish between happiness, contentment, enjoyment and serenity. 7.7 Consider traditional arguments for the existence of God (e.g. Cosmological and Ontological arguments) as well as the objections to these arguments.

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Assignment(s)	25%
Quizzes	25%
Tests	50%

Date:

June 17, 2025



Addendum:

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

