

**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