

## **PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

This course introduces students to central questions in philosophy through exploration of issues and concepts from selected renowned Western philosophers. It engages students in the close study of their own values and beliefs on themes such as the nature of reality, knowledge, the self, the good, and the right, and all in light of some of the greatest works in the Western philosophic enterprise, while considering their historical context and contribution to human thought and development. (*Pre-requisites: None*)

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the general purpose of philosophy as a method of inquiry and its main subdivisions (e.g., epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics).
2. Associate major historical and contemporary philosophers with their respective positions on key issues concerning the nature of knowledge and reality, while giving examples of the philosophical contribution of each.
3. Clearly express verbally and in writing an opinion on the main challenges to morality, including logical positivism, relativism, existentialism, and determinism.
4. Tackle problems in the form of ethical dilemmas, while proposing solutions for them based on prominent moral theories (e.g., Utilitarianism and Deontology).
5. Work with guidance as a member/leader of a team/s to complete a problem-based learning project.

### **Textbook & Course Materials:**

- Evans, C.S. (2018). *A History of Western Philosophy: From the Pre-Socratics to Postmodernism*. IVP Academic.

### **Course Content:**

1. Introducing Philosophy: What is philosophy?
2. Ancient Greek Philosophy and Socrates
3. Metaphysics and Epistemology: What is real and how do we know?
4. The Question of Morality: God/Good and Evil
5. The Question of Morality: Challenges to Morality
6. The Question of Morality: Hedonism
7. The Question of Morality:
8. Utilitarianism and Deontology
9. PBL Presentations and Feedback