



**COWLEY COLLEGE
& Area Vocational Technical School**

COURSE PROCEDURE FOR

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHO6447 3 Credit Hours**

Student Level:

This course is open to students on the college level in either Freshman or Sophomore year.

Catalog Description:

PHO6447 - INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (3 hrs)

[KRSN PHL1010]

This course provides students with critical thinking skills and analytical tools, to be applied to questions of knowledge, free will, metaphysics, ethics, the mind-body problem, and others.

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course meet, or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Project for this course, as sanctioned by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Prerequisites:

None

Controlling Purpose:

This course is designed to provide students with an appreciation of the value of philosophical thought for their global perspectives as world class citizens. The course will investigate the major contributions of a range of philosophers, weigh their arguments and draw conclusions. In the process, each student is invited to evaluate and create his/her own world views.

Objectives of the course:

1. To investigate the major contributions of a range of Philosophers
2. To understand the basis of currently held ideas and systems of thought
3. Freedom to choose and develop as individual thinkers

Competencies To Be Developed:

Upon completion of the course the student will...

1. Understand the fields of philosophical thought and the basic issue in each field
2. Have learned to analyze and evaluate the various answers to major philosophical issues.
3. Have evaluated his/her own world view and have moved toward refining his/her beliefs
4. Have learned to express himself/herself clearly and succinctly both orally and in writing.

Units Outcomes and Criterion Based Evaluation Key for Core Content:

The following outline defines the minimum core content not including the final examination period. Instructors may add other material as time allows.

Evaluation Key:

- A = All major and minor goals have been achieved and the achievement level is considerably above the minimum required for doing more advanced work in the same field.
- B = All major goals have been achieved, but the student has failed to achieve some of the less important goals. However, the student has progressed to the point where the goals of work at the next level can be easily achieved.
- C = All major goals have been achieved, but many of the minor goals have not been achieved. In this grade range, the minimum level of proficiency represents a person who has achieved the major goals to the minimum amount of preparation necessary for taking more advanced work in the same field, but without any major handicap of inadequacy in his background.
- D = A few of the major goals have been achieved, but the student’s achievement is so limited that he is not well prepared to work at a more advanced level in the same field.
- F = Failing, will be computed in GPA and hours attempted.
- N = No instruction or training in this area.

UNIT 1: PHILOSOPHICAL TOOLS						
Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...						
A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Identify and discuss the main branches of philosophy, and the relationship between philosophy and other disciplines
						Understand and apply philosophical methodologies

UNIT 2: WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define and discuss epistemology
						Investigate, evaluate, and apply various theories of knowledge, including but not limited to skepticism, empiricism and rationalism
						Discuss, interpret and debate classic and contemporary primary works in epistemology

UNIT 3: FREE WILL

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define and discuss the problem in considering free will
						Investigate, evaluate and apply various theories of free will, including but not limited to hard determinism, indeterminism, soft determinism and libertarianism
						Discuss, interpret and debate classic and contemporary primary works on the subject of free will

UNIT 4: IDENTITY

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define and discuss the problem in considering personal identity
						Investigate, evaluate, and apply various theories of identify, including but not limited to the illusion theory, the soul theory, and body theory, and the memory theory
						Discuss, interpret and debate classical and contemporary primary works on the subject of personal identity.

UNIT 5: MIND_BODY PROBLEM

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define and discuss the issue comprising the mind-body problem
						Investigate, evaluate, and apply various theories of identity, including but not limited to dualism, physicalism, behaviorism, functionalism, and identity theory
						Discuss, interpret and debate current neurological, psychological and other research relevant to the mind body problem
						Discuss, interpret, and debate classic and contemporary primary works on the mind-body problem

UNIT 6: DOES GOD EXIST?

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Distinguish between faith and reason, and between knowledge and belief
						Distinguish the meaning and usages of various definitions of the supernatural
						Discuss, interpret, and debate arguments both for and against classical theism
						Discuss, interpret, and debate classical and contemporary primary works on the question of the supernatural

UNIT 7: ETHICS

Outcomes: Upon Completion of this unit, students will be able to successfully...

A	B	C	D	F	N	Specific Competencies
						Demonstrate the ability to:
						Define ethics as a branch of philosophy, between knowledge and belief
						Investigate, evaluate and apply various theories of ethics, including but not limited to relativism, divine command, utilitarianism, duty-based ethics and virtue ethics
						Discuss, interpret and debate classic and contemporary primary works in ethics

Projects Required:

Textbook:

Contact Bookstore for current textbook.

Materials/Equipment Required:

Attendance Policy:

Students should adhere to the attendance policy outlined by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy will be outlined by the instructor in the course syllabus.

Maximum class size:

Based on classroom occupancy

Course Time Frame:

The U.S. Department of Education, Higher Learning Commission, and the Kansas Board of Regents define credit hour and have specific regulations that the college must follow when developing, teaching, and assessing the educational aspects of the college. A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit or an equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. The number of semester hours of credit allowed for each distance education or blended hybrid courses shall be assigned by the college based on the amount of time needed to achieve the same course outcomes in a purely face-to-face format.

Refer to the following policies:

[402.00 Academic Code of Conduct](#)

[263.00 Student Appeal of Course Grades](#)

[403.00 Student Code of Conduct](#)

Disability Services Program:

Cowley College, in recognition of state and federal laws, will accommodate a student with a documented disability. If a student has a disability which may impact work in this class which requires accommodations, contact the Disability Services Coordinator.