## BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### COURSE SYLLABUS

### FALL 2007

#### GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number**:** PHIL 1602

Course Title**:** Introduction to Philosophy

Credit Hours**:** 3

Prerequisites**:** None

Division/Discipline**:** Liberal Arts and Sciences/Humanities/Philosophy

Course Description**:** A course designed to introduce the student to various intellectual problems and questions that have confronted mankind since his beginning. Philosophical problems as well as methods of solving these problems will be discussed. This course is designed to help the student understand the integral place philosophy has in institutions of higher learning.

#### CLASSROOM POLICY

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The college assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is detrimental to the College’s educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. Learn the rules of, and avoid instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism.

Anyone seeking an accommodation under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should notify Student Support Services.

#### COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM

Introduction to Philosophy is a humanities general education course. If you earn a grade of C or better, Introduction to Philosophy transfers to area colleges and universities as an equivalent course.

General education requirements and the transferability of all college courses will vary among institutions, and perhaps even among departments, colleges, or programs within an institution. Institutional requirements may also change without prior notification.

Students are responsible to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions to insure that the courses the student enrolls in are the most appropriate set of courses for the transfer program.

## ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING/COURSE OUTCOMES

# Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

The primary objective of this class is simply for you to engage in philosophy. We will discuss issues that are often never questioned, but lie in a bed of assumptions we make every day. We will entertain questions such as, “What is truth?”, “How does one acquire knowledge?”, What are the foundations of ethics?”, “If God exists, why is there evil in the world?”, etc. Not only will you be introduced to what some of the major figures in the history of Western Philosophy have to say about such questions, but you will also address them yourselves.

I like to think of this class as an open forum for the exchange of ideas. Feel free to contribute anything on your mind to class at any time. All ideas are to be taken seriously in this class, and a respect for diversity of opinions is expected. The study of philosophy epitomizes the cliché, “the more you learn the less you know.” This semester we will engage in an exercise in humility, as we question the assumptions of our belief systems.

#### COURSE COMPETENCIES

1. Distinguish between the three basic divisions of philosophy: epistemology, axiology, and metaphysics.
2. Understand the role logic plays in philosophy and the difference between truth and logic.
3. Distinguish valid and sound arguments.
4. Distinguish necessary and sufficient conditions.
5. Understand the origins of Western Philosophy.
6. Articulate the chief tenants of Utilitarianism.
7. Articulate the chief tenants of Kant’s Ethical Theory.
8. Demonstrate an ability to think critically about ethical theories.
9. Appreciate the philosophical issues underlying an issue of applied ethics.
10. Distinguish some of the main approaches to Epistemology, including Plato’s Theory of the Forms, Descartes’ Method, Hume’s Skepticism, and Kant’s Transcendental Idealism.
11. Understand some of the central issues in philosophy of religion, including arguments for and against the existence of God.
12. Demonstrate an ability to recognize strengths and weaknesses in each these various arguments.
13. List and explain the traditional approaches to the mind/body problem.
14. Understand some of the central issues of the free will versus determinism debate.
15. Write a philosophy paper.(at least 3 full pages)
16. Develop the ability to effectively interpret and analyze essays in philosophy.

These skills will sharpen your analytical abilities as well as open your eyes to an indispensable force of Western Civilization. Additional competencies may be developed depending on our pace.

#### INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS

#### TEXTBOOK AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

#### REFERENCES

#### METHODS INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION

#### ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

#### COURSE OUTLINE