

**NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
PHI 211 - THE HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY I (3 CR.)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides an historical survey of representative philosophers from the pre-Socratics to the present. Introduces the student to the development of philosophical thought through selected readings of original works and appropriate critical materials. Lecture 3 hours per week.

GENERAL COURSE PURPOSE

To introduce the student to the history of and the thought of the major philosophical thinkers of the Western tradition through a critical reading of representative texts including, but not limited to, the works of early Greek philosophers extending through the Medieval period. While all periods of philosophy may be represented, Classical Philosophy is the emphasis of this course so that the student will gain a comprehensive understanding and appreciation for the historical as well as perennial philosophical questions and the answers proposed by the greatest thinkers in the Western traditions.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course the student will have developed a clear and comprehensive understanding of the general movement of philosophical thinking including, but not limited to, the first Greek Philosophers through Medieval Philosophy. Specifically the student should be able to:

- Identify topics and themes relevant to the Classical Period in the history of philosophy.
- Discuss the questions underlying the topics and themes in a coherent, meaningful, and critical fashion.
- Appreciate the distinctive features of the thought and world-views of the Classical Period in western philosophical history.
- Interpret in a coherent and constructive fashion some of the fundamental texts of the first rate thinkers of the Western Philosophical tradition.
- Assess the value of the contributions the major philosophers and their schools have made to our thinking and our way of life.

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED

Several of the following thinkers from the Classical period:

- Pre-Socratic Philosophers such as Heraclitus, Parmenides Anaximander, Empedocles, Democritus, Xenophanes etc.; Golden Age Athenian Philosophers: Socrates, Plato, Xenophon, Aristotle etc.; the Middle Period Philosophers: Sextus Empiricus, the Stoics, Plotinus, the Neo-Platonists etc.; the Latin Speaking Philosophers: Cicero, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius, etc.; the later period of Antiquity: Augustine, Boetius etc. The Medieval Philosophers: Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, Duns Scotus, etc. (PHI 212)

In addition, the course **may** include some thinkers from the Modern and Contemporary Periods.