

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
Fall 2018

Course Title (Credits)	HMN 102: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)
TC Course Designation	N/A
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Christopher Johnson
E-mail address	cjohnson@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
Office/Ext	1-332 / 3766
Office hours	Monday & Wednesday: 14.30-16.00 (and by appointment)
Language Teacher	
Instructor	Edward Rummel
E-mail address	erummel@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
Office/Ext	1-409 / 3734
Office hours	Tuesday & Thursday: 15.30-17.00 (and by appointment)
Course Description:	
<p>Traces the origin of philosophizing in antiquity and relates classical problems to current issues of human concern. Introduces students to major philosophical problems and methods.</p> <p>This course will introduce students to some of the basic skills of philosophical thinking. Students will become familiar with argument forms, informal fallacies, and will learn how to evaluate deductive and inductive arguments. Students will also learn how to critique arguments by means of counter-examples, and will learn how to strengthen their arguments through anticipated objections.</p>	
Course Goals/Objectives:	
<p><i>Philosophy Objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have an introductory-level understanding of some central ideas in philosophy. • Students will learn and use basic terms and concepts in the study of philosophy. • Students will develop critical thinking skills in their understanding of philosophical ideas. <p><i>English Objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will increase their comprehension through exercises designed to aid the intensive reading of academic texts. • Students will increase their listening and speaking skills by listening to short academic lectures, doing note-taking exercises, speaking exercises and discussions of academic material with classmates and teachers. • Students will increase their writing proficiency at the sentence, paragraph and essay level by doing homework exercises and writing in-class compositions. <p><i>Critical Thinking Objectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will develop skills in inductive and deductive reasoning. • Students will develop skills to identify the relevance of information to arguments. • Students will develop skills to evaluate the impact of new information on arguments. 	
Teaching Methodology	
<p>A variety of active learning teaching strategies will be used to deliver course objectives. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive lectures • Facilitated discussion • Group-work on assigned questions • Peer response to assigned work 	

Day	Topic	Content
1 Oct 2	Introduction to the Course	Explanation of the goals and structure of the class The Importance of Critical Thinking
2 Oct 3	Unit 1: Arguments	Philosophical Arguments
3 Oct 11		Premises & Conclusions
4 Oct 16		Premise Indicators & Conclusion Indicators
5 Oct 18		Review of Unit 1
6 Oct 23	<i>Unit 1 Test</i>	Unit 1 Test & Introduction to Unit 2
7 Oct 25	Unit 2: Complex Arguments	Introduction to Complex Arguments
8 Oct 30		Analyzing Complex Arguments
9 Nov 1		Review of Unit 2
10 Nov 6	<i>Unit 2 Test</i>	Unit 2 Test & Introduction to Unit 3
11 Nov 8	Unit 3: Deductive Arguments	The Nature of Deductive Arguments
12 Nov 13		Validity and Invalidity
13 Nov 15		Soundness & Unsoundness
14 Nov 20		Diagramming & Evaluating Deductive Arguments
15 Nov 22		Review of Unit 3
16 Nov 27	<i>Unit 3 Test</i>	Unit 3 Test & Introduction to Unit 4
17 Nov 29	Unit 4: Inductive Arguments	The Nature of Inductive Arguments
18 Dec 4		Prediction & Generalization
19 Dec 6		Analogy
20 Dec 11		Critiquing Inductive Arguments
21 Dec 13		Review of Unit 4
22 Dec 18	<i>Unit 4 Test</i>	Unit 4 Test & Introduction to Unit 5
23 Dec 20	Unit 5: Counter-Arguments	Counter-Arguments
24 Jan 8		Anticipating Objections
25 Jan 10		Review of Unit 5
26 Jan 15	<i>Unit 5 Test</i>	Unit 5 Test & Introduction to Unit 6
27 Jan 17	Unit 6: Fallacies	Ad Hominem & Tu Quoque
28 Jan 22		Appeals to False Authority, Popularity, Tradition
29 Jan 24		False Dilemma, Strawman & Hasty Generalization
30 Jan 29		Review of Unit 6
Week 16	<i>Final Exam</i>	

Required Materials:

All course materials will be provided to students.

Grades and Grading Standards

- Participation: 10%
- Homework: 20%
- Unit Tests: 40%
- Final Exam: 30%

Participation

The participation grade includes but is not limited to: contribution to class activities, performance on pop quizzes, and overall preparation for class.

Homework

To become good at critical thinking it is essential to do practice questions and to review material on a regular basis. Homework will thus be assigned and checked on a regular basis.

Unit Tests

A test will be held at the end of each section of study. Absence from a test will result in a mark of '0' unless documentation acceptable to Academic Affairs is provided. Make-up tests will only be provided if extenuating documentation is provided.

Final Exam

The final exam will be held during the exam period and may cover all material studied in the course. Details of the format of the final exam will be provided in class.

Methods of Student Feedback:

In principle, work will be evaluated and returned within one week of submission. Feedback will be provided in the form of:

- Written comments on pop quizzes, tests, and exams;
- Oral feedback both in class and during office hours;
- Model answers for homework provided in class.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

Regular class attendance and participation are essential to success in this class. Students are expected to come to each class session on time and prepared to engage in discussion and activities on the course topics. Students are expected to listen respectfully to their peers in class.

Students with 5 unexcused absences will be recommended to withdraw from the course. For excused absences due to illness, injury, bereavement, etc., students must submit an Excused Absence Form to Student Affairs in order to have their absences cleared as an excused absence.

A missed test or exam can only be rewritten if a legitimate excuse for having missed it is provided. Make-up tests or exams must be written as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructors of absences and to arrange a time to rewrite any tests.

Any student work that is found to be plagiarized will not be accepted. Consult the student bulletin for more information regarding Academic Honesty at MIC. Students who are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult with an instructor prior to submission deadlines.

Class Preparation and Review

For every hour of class time, students are expected to spend a minimum of two hours in preparation and review. There will be a new reading each class meeting. Students must complete the reading and be prepared to discuss its contents at the class meeting. In order not to lose sight of the whole picture of the course, students are encouraged to review previous readings and notes in order to make stronger connections to the new readings.

Diploma Policy Standards Satisfied by Course Objectives:

Diploma Policy Objectives (School of International Liberal Arts)

1. Advanced critical thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English

Introduction to Philosophy		Advanced	Proficient	Developing	Emerging	No Attempt
						
Critical Thinking	Ability to Identify & Solve Problems	<p>Gives insightful comments in class discussions. Shows ability to analyze data, gather and assess resources, and express opinions in a cogent manner.</p>	<p>Able to contribute to class discussions, perform basic content analysis, gather and assess resources, and express opinions in an adequate manner.</p>	<p>Beginning to visualize content in a holistic manner but struggles with complex concepts and relationships.</p>	<p>Shows motivation but lacks the skills needed to think critically, such as information gathering, assessment, and synthesis.</p>	
	Information Gathering					
	Assessment of Credibility					
	Comparative Analysis					
English Language Ability	Reading	<p>Exhibits an impressive degree of fluency in speaking and writing. Grammar and reading ability do not impede communication. Is able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.</p>	<p>Exhibits a sufficient degree of fluency in speaking and writing to convey message. Relies mainly on familiar vocabulary and is not able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.</p>	<p>Exhibits a satisfactory degree of fluency in speaking and writing but occasionally struggles to convey message. Frequently references dictionary or other sources of help.</p>	<p>Lacks comprehension and/or confidence in English language usage. Has limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar and pronunciation, unable to formulate questions.</p>	<p>Underwhelming or completely lacking student performance</p>
	Writing					
	Oral Communication					
	Social Skills					