Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2020

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| Course Title (Credits) | HMN 102-1 Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credits) |
| **Content Teacher** | |
| Instructor | Nahum Brown |
| E-mail address | nbrown@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | 1-202 / 3711 |
| Office hours | Tues & Thurs: 14.30-16.00 (and by appointment) |
| **Language Teacher** | |
| Instructor | Alan Simpson |
| E-mail address | asimpson@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | 1-201 / 3710 |
| Office hours | Tuesday: 15:30-17:00 & Friday 10.00-11.30 (and by appointment) |

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| Course Description: | | |
| This course traces the origin of philosophizing in antiquity and relates classical problems to current issues of human concern. The aim is to introduce students to major philosophical problems and methods. This course exposes students to some of the basic skills of philosophical thinking. Students become familiar with some of the most important themes and figures from the history of Western philosophy. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| **Philosophy Objectives**   Students will have an introductory-level understanding of **central ideas** in philosophy.   Students will learn and use **basic terms and concepts** in the study of philosophy.   Students will develop **critical thinking and textual analysis skills** through their understanding of philosophical ideas.  **English Objectives**   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. | | |
| Course Schedule: | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introduction to the course | Teachers’ Self-Introduction, Discussion of Syllabus, Explanation of Goals and Purpose of the Class, Students’ Self-Introduction. |
| 2 | Unit 1: Plato, Introduction to Plato, Theory of the Forms | Plato exercises related to his life and works.  Plato exercises related to his Theory of the Forms. |
| 3 | Unit 1: Plato, Theory of the Forms | Plato exercises related to his Theory of the Forms. |
| 4 | Unit 1: Plato, Theory of the Forms | Plato exercises related to his Theory of the Forms. |
| 5 | Unit 1: Plato, Theory of the Forms | Plato exercises related to his Theory of the Forms. |
| 6 | Unit 1: Plato, Allegory of the Cave | Plato exercises related to his Allegory of the Cave. |
| 7 | Unit 1: Plato, Allegory of the Cave | Plato exercises related to his Allegory of the Cave. |
| 8 | Unit 1: Plato, Allegory of the Cave | Plato exercises related to his Allegory of the Cave. |
| 9 | Unit 1: Plato, Allegory of the Cave | Plato exercises related to his Allegory of the Cave. |
| 10 | Unit 1 Review | Review |
| 11 | Unit 1d: Plato, Test | Unit 1 Test |
| 12 | Unit 2: Descartes, Introduction to Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to his life and works.  Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 13 | Unit 2: Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 14 | Unit 2: Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 15 | Unit 2: Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 16 | Unit 2: Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 17 | Unit 2: Descartes, I think, therefore I am | Descartes exercises related to I think, therefore I am. |
| 18 | Unit 2: Descartes, Dualism | Descartes exercises related to Dualism. |
| 19 | Unit 2: Descartes, Dualism | Descartes exercises related to Dualism. |
| 20 | Unit 2: Descartes, Dualism | Descartes exercises related to Dualism. |
| 21 | Unit 2: Descartes, Dualism | Descartes exercises related to Dualism. |
| 22 | Review of Unit 2 | Review |
| 23 | Unit 2: Descartes, Test (8) | Unit 2 Test |
| 24 | Unit 3: Camus, Introduction to Camus, the Myth of Sisyphus | Camus exercises related to his life and works.  Camus exercises related to absurdity and the meaning of life. |
| 25 | Unit 3: Camus, Introduction to Camus, the Myth of Sisyphus | Camus exercises related to his life and works.  Camus exercises related to absurdity and the meaning of life. |
| 26 | Unit 3: Camus, the Myth of Sisyphus | Camus exercises related to absurdity and the meaning of life. |
| 27 | Unit 3: Camus, the Myth of Sisyphus | Camus exercises related to absurdity and the meaning of life. |
| 28 | Unit 3: Camus, the Myth of Sisyphus | Camus exercises related to absurdity and the meaning of life. |
| 29 | Review of unit 3 | Review |
| 30 | Final exam | Final exam |
| Required Materials: | | |
| Bring a highlighter, a red pen, a pencil, an eraser, an English-English dictionary, and an A-4 binder to every class. Instead of using a standard textbook, handouts will be given in class. There are no textbooks necessary. | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| You are expected to be punctual and to attend all lessons. A delay or early departure will be counted as a half (0.5) day absence. You will be penalized in this way if you are more than 10 minutes late to class. However, any absence, delay, or early departure can be excused if an official document (e.g., doctor’s notes) is submitted to us within 7 days of such an occurrence. When you miss a lesson, it is your responsibility to see your teachers afterwards (and perhaps other students who attended the lesson), to find out how to catch up with the work you missed. If you expect to be absent from a forthcoming lesson, you should email both of your teachers to explain your absence at least one day in advance.  **A maximum of four and a half (4.5) absences is allowed. The fifth absence will automatically result in a withdrawal from the course.** | | |
| Class Preparation and Review: | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. | | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | | |
|  Participation: 10%   Unit Tests: 60% (30% x 2)   Final Exam: 30%  **Participation**  The participation grade includes but is not limited to: being punctual, completing homework assignments, contributing to class activities, and overall attentiveness in class.  **Unit Tests**  A test will be held at the end of Units 1 and 2. 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. If a Make-up is provided, it will be at least as hard as the original test.  **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.    The final grade will be determined as below.  A: 90-100 points  B: 80-89 points  C: 70-79 points  D: 60-69 points  F: Less than 60 points  Plagiarism  Plagiarism is not acceptable at MIC. Students must submit their own work and not copy from other sources, unless they credit their sources with appropriate referencing. Students caught copying information from other sources and pretending that it is their own work will automatically result in a grade of ‘F’ or withdrawal from the course. | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objectives:   1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought) 2. The ability to identify and solve problems   5. Proficiency in the use of information technology | | |
| Notes: | | |
| The schedule, policies, and procedures in this course are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. | | |

