

Phoenix Christian Sr High School

SST460 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Scope & Sequence

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Introduction to Philosophy” is a one-semester course designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn a little about many different aspects of western philosophy. The goal of this course is to prepare students to develop their own philosophy of life, and demonstrate that the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” not the autonomy of the sinful human mind.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND *KEY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

The NIV Study Bible, Zondervan Publishing House

Exploring Apologetics: Selected Readings, Christian Schools International

Reason and Responsibility, 12th Edition, Thomson-Wadsworth, ISBN 0-534-62558-4

COURSE SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

The Nature and Limitations of Philosophy 2 Weeks

Key Concepts: Truth, Wisdom, and Autonomy. Definition of Philosophy-Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics. Practical Relevance of philosophy. *Biblical Integration:* Biblical Warrant for Philosophy. Biblical Cautions for Philosophy. Biblical teaching concerning the effects of sin on the human mind. Biblical Authority and Autonomy. Appropriate Bible passages will be read, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments and summaries of material taught.

The Differences Between Philosophy, Science and Religion 1 Week

Key Concepts: Definition of Science. Scientific Method. Goals of Science. Limitations of Science. Kinds of Science- “Hard” Science, and “Soft” Science. Definition of Religion. Religious Method. Limitations of Religion. *Biblical Integration:* Biblical authority and teaching is applicable to science, philosophy and all other areas of life. Appropriate Bible passages will be reads, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments and summaries of material taught.

The Importance of Logic in Philosophy 2 Weeks

Key Concepts: Arguments - Definition and Purpose. Types of Arguments. Good and Bad Arguments.

Biblical Integration: God and Logic - Is God logical? Do the laws of logic come from God or do they exist independently of God? Can logic be a test of what God can or cannot do, or a test of what the Bible does or does not teach? Appropriate passages will be read, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments and summaries of material taught. Short answer logic test.

The Major Schools of Philosophy 2 Weeks

Key Concepts: Metaphysics – Naturalism, Dualism, and Immaterialism. Epistemology – Rationalism, Empiricism, and Pragmatism. Ethics – Utilitarianism, Egoism, Relativism, Contract Theory, Deontological Theory. *Biblical Integration:* Biblical Philosophy of Life (Worldview) – Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics. Appropriate Bible passages will be read, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments and summaries of material taught.

Philosophical Problems – Metaphysical Freedom 4 Weeks

Key Concepts: Determinism, Indeterminism and Fatalism. Freedom, Ability and Moral Responsibility. Hard Determinism, Soft Determinism and Libertarianism.

Biblical Integration: Biblical Determinism or Biblical Indeterminism? God's Knowledge of the Future. God's Judgment of Mankind. Appropriate Bible passages will be read, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments, summaries of material taught, and one essay exam.

Philosophical Problems – Justifying Criminal Punishment 3 Weeks

Key Concepts: Legal Crime, Treatment, Rehabilitation, Deterrence, Restitution and Retribution. Justice, Fairness and Legal Rights.

Biblical Integration: Biblical solution to the problem of justifying criminal punishment- Sin and Legal Crime, Old Testament Case Law, and New Testament Discontinuity. Appropriate Bible passages will be read, explained and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments, summaries of material taught, and one essay exam.

Philosophical Problems - Are Right/Wrong Relative? 3 Weeks

Key Concepts: Practical Relevance of this Problem. Ethical Absolutism. Ethical Relativism. Ethical Nihilism. Cultural Relativism. Evaluation of Cultural Relativism.

Biblical Integration: Biblical view of moral duty- universal and particular. Appropriate Bible passages read, explained, and applied.

Assessment: Short essay assignments, summaries of material taught, and one essay exam.

Review/Final Exam Preparation 1 Week

Key Concepts: Review all Key Concepts of the Semester.

Assessments: Comprehensive Essay Final Exam.