

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: April 11, 2011

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Effective: Fall 2011

1. **Course Number:** PHI160
Course Title: Three Great Thinkers
2. **Description:** Students in this course engage in a critical examination of a number of contemporary seminal ideas central to the human experience of both Eastern and Western thinkers. Students study the writings of three major thinkers in the history of ideas. The three are announced before pre-registration each semester and vary from semester to semester, so the course is never the same. Students explore the ideas in the course for internal consistency and for the historical context in which they arose, as well as the actual consequences those ideas have had in human affairs.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.
 - Write in a logically coherent manner, using outlining techniques and citing sources from both primary and secondary materials.
 - Compare and contrast the ideas of three world famous thinkers
 - Analyze various philosophical theories, and express in coherent form the various arguments for and against a number of ethical theories.
 - Analyze various points of view of the three philosophers - the morality and ethical bases of all points of view are an integral component of the students' skill development in this wide-ranging course in world philosophy.
 - Develop a sense of international philosophical issues by analyzing and comparing a wide range of philosophical thinking which may include theories from France, Germany, Israel, England, Scotland, the United States, China and Greece.
 - Compare and contrast a wide range of international philosophical theories, applying them, where appropriate, to their own personal lives.
4. **Credits:** Three Credits; may be repeated once for credit.
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Humanities & Fine Arts (or) Behavioral or Social Science
6. **Prerequisites:** ENL101 and a previous Philosophy course
7. **Semester Offered:** Varies
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Evaluation of student performance includes quizzes, exams, written assignments, and a final report.
9. **General Topical Outline** (Optional):
 - What makes a "great thinker"?
 - The nature of thinking
 - The relationship between thinking and doing
 - Each great thinker will be explored in the following:
 - Biography
 - Contemporaries
 - The nature of his thinking
 - What made it different?
 - What does it mean in today's world?