



**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

Successful students will be able to:

1. Explain traditional and contemporary problems of metaphysics, and the philosophical reasoning and viewpoints pertaining to them.
2. Systematically develop their own philosophical reasoning and reflection about the types of metaphysical problems covered.
3. Demonstrate the relation of metaphysics and theory of knowledge with regard to the problems discussed in the course.
4. Contrast and compare traditional and contemporary philosophical perspectives on specific topics covered in the course.

**N: Course Content:**

1. Historical and contemporary perspectives on the nature of metaphysics, on its relation to epistemology, and on a range of specific metaphysical problems.
2. An examination of at least one major historical philosopher (e.g., Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Heidegger) on a set of central problems in metaphysics, or an examination of the writings of several philosophers on one major historical problem of metaphysics.
3. The study of another major problem of metaphysics with significant emphasis on contemporary thinking about that problem.
4. Works examined might include Descartes' Meditations, or Kant's Prolegomena; problems covered might include the mind/body problem, the problem of personal identity, or the ultimate nature of reality. Other topics covered might include: God, life after death, meaning and the purpose of life, causation, free will and determinism, human nature, investigation in philosophical psychology, and the relation of language to consciousness.

**O: Methods of Instruction:**

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

A combination of lecture and discussion. Some class sessions may involve formal lectures for the entire time (allowing time for questions), in which case a later class session will be devoted to a discussion of the lecture and reading material. Other class sessions may involve a combination of informal lecture and structured discussion.

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:**

Texts will be updated periodically. A typical example is:

Pojman, L. (Ed.). (2004). Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Temporary Readings, (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Q: Means of Assessment:**

Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

Any possible combination of the following which equals 100%:  
 (No one evaluation component within each category may exceed 40%)

	<u>Percent Range</u>	<u>Example</u>	
Tests, Quizzes, Short Written Assignments	20 – 50%	Three 10% Tests	30%
Written Class Presentations, Essays, Essay Exams	30 – 60%	Two 30% Essays	60%
Instructor’s General Evaluation (may include attendance class participation, group work, homework, etc.)	0 – 20%	Attend/Participation	<u>10%</u>
			100%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No.

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 Course Designer(s): Brian Davies and Bob Fahrnkopf

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 Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

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 Dean / Director

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 Registrar