Theory of Knowledge

# **essential understanding**

Students will examine the essential questions of existence through a study of philosophical themes and traditions



# **overview**

**What is reality? What is truth? What is right? Can we really be certain of anything?**

This course will explore the foundational questions of human existence through the study of a variety philosophical traditions and text. This course serves to expand your knowledge of how the question, “What is life all about?” , has been explored historically and how it continues to be explored today. Topics explored in this course include metaphysics, ethics, morality, aesthetics, epistemology, free will and political philosophy.

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**Guiding Question 3: What is valuable?**

# **lessons**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Value Theory-Axiology

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ethics

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Aesthetics

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ethical Dilemma

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Existentialism

# **group work**

**Due date** April 23/24

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Ethics Dialogue**- Students will participate in a Socratic dialogue based on an ethical topic the class choices as a whole. Students will receive a grade for submitting a question and participation in the dialogue

**Due Date** May 14/15

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Aesthetics Dialogue-**Students will participate in a Socratic dialogue based the topic of aesthetics the class choices as a whole. Students will receive a grade for submitting a question and participation in the dialogue

**Due date** May 10/11

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Ethical Issue Group Assignment**- Students will choose an ethical issue and give a group presentation examining their ethical issue from all angles. Within their presentation students should include the following information:

-why is this an ethical issue? -give background information about the ethical issue - present both/all sides of the ethical issue - choose 2-3 philosophers/philosophies and share what their philosophers/philosophies say about the ethical issue

Below is a link to a list of ethical issues:

http://people.wku.edu/jan.garrett/320/320specf.htm

# **individual work**

**Due date** Every Thursday or Friday

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Lesson Notes-** Students will submit lesson notes at the end of every week.

**Due date** April 12/13

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **‘What is Valuable?’**- Students will choose to complete 1 of 2 assignments below.

1. **Ethics Vocabulary**- Students will define 12 of the ethics terms below. Within their definition students must include their own definition/understanding of the term and include a picture/graphic to support their definition.

-Utilitarianism -Normative Ethics -Applied Ethics -Ethical System -Culture relativity -Relativism -Altruism -Hedonism -Situanism -Virtue Ethics -Stoicism -Deontology -Consequentialism -Existentialism -formalist theory of art -institutional theory of art -historical theory of art

1. **Ethical Systems-** Students will choose 2 ethical systems and compare and contrast the elements of their ethical systems. Within their project students should answer the following:

**-Deontology -Consequentialism - Pragmatic Ethics -Role Ethics -Relativism**

* what does each ethical system say about what is valuable? -who are philosophers associated with each ethical system? -share at least 1 quote about each ethical system -what are your personal ethics? -how do you determine what is right/wrong behavior?- which ethical system resonates with you the most?

**Due date** April 19/20

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ‘Philosophy in daily life’-**Students will choose to complete 2 of the 4 assignments below.

1. **The examined life**- Students will choose 1 philosophical topic and document how they have personally experienced their topic in their life during a weeks time. Students will reflect on their experience with their philosophical topic in a 2-3 paragraph reflection. Students will also reflect on their experience with one additional medium (i.e. photography, drawing, poem).

Below are a several philosophical topics students may examine in their personal life, but many other philosophical topics are available as well:

- Ethics - Morality - Cause and Effect - What is Valuable - Time and Space

- Meaning and Purpose - Logic and Reason - Belief and Faith- Connections and Relationships

2. **Ethical Issues in the News**- Student will find 3 news articles from the last 5 years which present an ethical dilemma. Students will use the provided form to analyze the ethical issue presented in the news articles. Students are encouraged to find an article in 3 different ethical categories:

-Business Ethics -Political Ethics -Social Ethics -Culture/Justice - Healthcare

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/studentactivity/20090417.pdf>

3. **Ethical Dilemmas**- Students will choose 8-10 fictional ethical dilemmas from the website provided below give a 4-6 sentence response to the ethical dilemma presented.

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/features/magazine/columns/the_ethicist/index.html>

4. **Modes of Persuasion-** Students will find an 2-3 examples for each of the four modes of persuasion in advertising or media. Students will provide a commentary for which mode of persuasion they believe is most effective and why.

* Ethos - Pathos - Logos -Kairos

**Due date** May 3/4

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **What is valuable to experience?**- Students will choose to complete 1 of the 3 assignments listed below.

1. What is Music?
2. What is Beauty?
3. What is Art?
4. Students will create an individual presentation which documents their understanding of their chosen topic (Music, Art, Beauty)

Within their presentation students will give their personal answer to the question as well as give 4-6 examples of their topic (music, beauty,art), 2-3 examples of what is not their topic (music, beauty, art).

Students will choose 2-3 philosophers/philosophies and share quotes and information for each on how they comment on their chosen topic.

b. Students will share an original creation based upon their topic (make music, art or something beautiful)

# **assessment**

**Due date** May 24/25

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **‘Ideal Society/Ideal Person’-** Students will choose 1 of 2 assignments below. Students will submit their project as a individual non-presentation project.

1. **Ideal Society**- Students will examine the concept of value as it relates to society and human community. Students will present the characteristics of the ‘ideal’ society.
2. - Does the ideal society follow any particular political system? - What is the role/purpose of the state (government) in the ideal society? - What does the ‘ideal’ society value? - - How do ethics and logic a part of the ‘ideal’ society? - Comment on the role of economics, education, the arts, government, infrastructure and public institutions in the ‘ideal’ society

Within their project students will share commentary and quotes of at least 2 philosophers on the ‘ideal’ society

b. Students will complete a non-slides of their presentation. Students may submit their non-slides element as a creative art piece

2. **Ideal Person**- Students will examine the concept of value as it relates to the individual. Students will present the characteristics of the ‘ideal’ human being

1. - - Does the ideal person follow any particular political/philosophical/moral system? - What is the behavior and mental processes of the ‘ideal’ person? - What does the ‘ideal’ person value? - - How are ethics and logic a part of the ‘ideal’ person? - Comment on the role of morals, education, the arts, psychology and philosophy on the ‘ideal’ person -Within their project students will share commentary and quotes of at least 2 philosophers on the ‘ideal’ person

b. Students will complete a non-slides of their presentation. Students may submit their non-slides element as a creative art piece