

Theory of Knowledge

essential understanding

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



overview

This course will explore the essential questions of human existence through the study of diverse philosophical traditions and themes. This course serves to expand your knowledge of how questions we all ponder at some time, such as “what is life all about?”, have been explored historically and how it continues to be explored today. Topics explored in this course include metaphysics, ethics, morality, aesthetics, knowledge, values and logic. Students will be challenged to develop skills in cognitive and creative exploration, logical thought, dialogue, observation, academic research and embracing multiple perspectives.

Theory of Knowledge

Guiding Question 1: What Is?

lessons

- _____ What is philosophy?
- _____ Metaphysics
- _____ Plato's 'Allegory of the Cave'
- _____ Free Will
- _____ Soul

group work

Due date Part 1 March 4/5

Due date Part 2 March 14/15

_____ **Philosopher Birthday Boxes-** Students will create a birthday box (box celebrating the attributes) for a chosen philosopher. Students will present their research information in a presentation and participate in a gallery walk to share their birthday boxes.

Part 1: Research Presentation about philosopher

Part 2: Gallery Walk of decorated birthday boxes

Due date January 22/24

_____ **Socratic Dialogue 1-** Philosophical Questions

Due date March 18/19

_____ **Socratic Dialogue 2-** On Death

individual work

Due date February 14/15; March 14/15; April 4/5

_____ **Lesson Notes** – Students will submit lesson notes on the above due dates.

Due date January 31/February 1

_____ **What is Philosophy?**

Students will choose to complete 2 of the 3 below assignments

- 1. Philosophy Vocabulary-** Students will complete 8-10 of the philosophy vocabulary terms listed on the assignment rubric. Students will define the terms in 2 parts.
 - a. Official Definition- the definition/explanation of the term
 - b. Personal Explanation- In your own words how do you personally define the term?
This could an illustration, example, or original explanation.

- 2. Allegory of the Cave-** Students will read an excerpt from Plato’s ‘Allegory of the Cave’ and will create a non-written piece (visual, auditory or kinesthetic) to demonstrate their understanding of the metaphysics examined in this reading. Students will also write a one paragraph reflection on their understanding of the reading and an explanation of their non-written piece.

- 3. Spaceship Earth-** You are on a spaceship spinning through the infinite darkness of space. You were born on this spaceship. You cannot leave this spaceship.
This spaceship is called Earth.
Write a letter to someone not living on the spaceship telling them what life is like here.

Students will write 2-3 paragraphs and incorporate a visual element to create their letter.

Due date February 7/8

_____ **Mr. Nobody-** Students will watch the movie Mr. Nobody. Students will choose to complete a 1-2 paragraph analysis and response to the movie or respond to the provided feedback form.

Due date February 14/15

_____ **Metaphysical Topics-** Students will choose to complete 1 of 2 assignments below.

1. **Metaphysical Collage-** Students will create a collage about one of the metaphysical topics listed on the assignment rubric. Students will accompany their collage with 1-2 written paragraphs of information pertaining to a theory related their metaphysical topic listed in the rubric.
 - a. Visual Collage
 - b. 1- 2 paragraphs of information about theory related to metaphysical topic

2. **Reading Response-** Students will complete a 1-2 paragraph written summary accompanied by a visual for 2 of 3 readings based upon the topic of metaphysics.

- **Reading 1- Explanation of String Theory (M-Theory)**

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/why-is-m-theory-the-leading-candidate-for-theory-of-everything-20171218/>

- **Reading 2- Dao De Jing (Foundational book of Daoism) Pages 12-14**

<http://www.indiana.edu/~p374/Daodejing.pdf>

- **Reading 3- Rene Descartes: Principles of Philosophy Pages 22-25**

<https://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/descartes1644part2.pdf>

assessment

Due date April 4/5

_____ **What are you?** - Students will create a project based on the concept of the soul and answer the question ‘what are you?’ Students will complete the assignment as an individual project and participate in gallery walk displaying their project.

1. Research Information (listed on the assignment rubric)
2. Non-slides element (creative art piece/ demonstration/activity/ etc.)

Assignment Rubric

Philosophers Birthday Box

Part 1 Research Presentation

In Part 1 of their assignment groups will present their research information about their chosen philosopher. Within their presentation students should address the following information:

- Biographical information about philosopher
- How did the philosopher share their message? (books/speeches/etc)
- 2-3 quotes from philosopher
- What did this philosopher teach?
- What 'school of thought' were they part of/what are similar philosophies?

Philosophers

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| -Aristotle | -Rumi | -Jean Paul Sartre |
| -Plato | -Dogen | -Socrates |
| -Confucius | -Immanuel Kant | -Thomas Aquinas |
| -Buddha | -Friedrich Nietzsche | -John Locke |
| -Laozi | -Rene Descartes | -Albert Camus |

What is Philosophy?

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| - Aesthetics | - Metaphysics | - Logic |
| - Axiology | - Theism | - Philosophy |
| - Empiricism | - Monism | - Dualism |
| - Existentialism | - Free Will | - Ethics |

Spaceship Earth

Examine such topics as:

What is life like on this spaceship? What are the actions and behaviors of creatures on this spaceship? What are the thoughts, emotions and beliefs of the creatures on the spaceship? How do different beings on the spaceship interact with each other? What is important or valuable to those on the spaceship? Any other things you want put your letter about life on this spaceship

Metaphysical Topics

Metaphysical Topics

- Being (Monism/Dualism/)
- Matter and Properties (String Theory/Quantum Mechanics)
- Time and Space (Realism/Idealism/Physicalism)
- God, Spirituality and Religion (Theism/Atheism/Pantheism)
- Reality (Materialism/Empiricism)
- Free Will (determinism/libertarianism)

What are you (soul)?

1. Choose two different religious or philosophical traditions and compare and contrast what each tradition says about the soul.
2. Find 2-3 examples of art that comments on the soul (song, painting, poem, etc.). Students will analyze each piece of art and what it “says” about the soul.
3. What are your personal opinions/beliefs on the soul and your relationship to it? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs or a creative expression.

Google Classroom Code

897eu0b