

Theory of Knowledge

essential understanding

Students will examine the essential questions of existence through a survey of Western and Eastern philosophical traditions with a thematic focus on exploring answers to the question: “What is the self?”



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 students' knowledge of how questions we all ponder at some time, such as “what is the true nature of reality?” and “what is the meaning of life?”, have been explored historically and how these questions continue to be explored today. Major topics explored in this course include *epistemology*, *metaphysics*, *theology*, *aesthetics*, *free will*, and *ethics*. Students will be challenged to develop skills in cognitive and creative exploration as well as critical and logical thinking. Embracing multiple perspectives, students will engage in dialogue, observation, and academic research.

Guiding Question 1: What is reality?

lessons

_____ Foundations of Philosophy

_____ Epistemology

_____ Metaphysics

_____ God, Faith, the Afterlife

individual work

All individual assignments (except daily warm ups) will consist of a concept proposal and final project. Grades will be based upon the submission of both elements.

Due Date: Varies

_____ **Daily Warm Ups** - Twice during the quarter, your daily warm ups (your written response to the daily 'Start Your Brain' question) will be collected by the instructor for credit. If your warm up is not complete when it is your turn to submit the warm up, you will not receive credit.

Due Date: Concept Proposal - Sept. 9th/10th, Final - Sept. 12th, 13th

Students will choose to complete *one of two* assignments below:

_____ **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.

OR

_____ **Tao Te Ching** - Students will read an excerpt from Lao Tzu's "Tao Te Ching" 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.

group work

All group assignments will consist of a concept proposal and final project. Grades will be based upon the submission of both elements.

Due Date: Concept Proposal - Sept 16th, 17th Final - 19th/20th

_____ **Logical Fallacies** - Groups will choose two logical fallacies from the list below, which they will present to the class in a 4-6 minute group presentation. Each group must pick different logical fallacies. All Groups may present their logical fallacies through *an artistic medium, skit, performance or other kinetic demonstration*. All presentations must include the following three components

- Description/Definition - the group's own definition of the fallacy
- Example - shown through an artistic medium, skit, performance, or other kinetic demonstration
- Analysis - share your group's thoughts about the significance of this fallacy of logic or reasoning in the real world.

Logical Fallacies

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| - Ad Hominem | - Straw Man |
| - Appeal to Ignorance | - Red Herring |
| - Begging the Question | - Hasty Generalization |
| - Equivocation | - False Cause |
| - False Dichotomy | - False Analogy |

Due Date: Concept Proposal - Sept. 26th/27th, Final - Oct. 3rd, 4th

_____ **What Is Reality?** - Groups will choose a metaphysical theory and present their knowledge to the class through show and tell. Each group must pick a different metaphysical theory. Grades will be based upon completion of a concept proposal, research information sheet, and a 4-6 minute group presentation.

- Show-** Groups will use a non-slides/powerpoint element to show their theory. Physically demonstrate your theory to the class. *Groups may show their theory through an artistic medium, skit, performance or other kinetic demonstration.*
- Tell-** Within their presentation groups will tell about their theory. Specifically, groups should: define and explain their theory, give any important background information about theory, provide information about how the theory answers the question 'What is reality?', give examples of philosophers or religions or myths related to your metaphysical theory.

Metaphysical Theories

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| - Monism | - Idealism |
| - Dualism | - Materialism |
| - Pluralism | |

assessment

Due Date: Weekly submissions due at the end of each school week on Google Classroom

_____ **Lesson Takeaway**– Students will submit lesson notes at the end of each school week. Notes may be submitted as a written summary, illustrations or answer the included prompt.

Due Date: Oct. 10th/11th

_____ **Socratic Seminar** - Our first Socratic Seminar of the year will be based on a major issue in theology, “the problem of evil”. Grades will be based upon dialogue participation (speaking) and submission of a question for dialogue on Google Classroom.

readings

Lawhead, William F. The philosophical journey: An interactive approach. 5th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education, 2011.

Lao-tzu, et al. *Tao Te Ching*. Vintage Books, 1997.

links

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy - <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Google Classroom Code:

Mon/Thurs: **w50ks3**

Tues/Fri: **wdlm5ry**