

NOV 28 1995

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, ECONOMICS, AND COMMERCE**

**COURSE:** PH 1400: INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY  
COURSE OUTLINE: 1994-95 y

**INSTRUCTOR:** John O. Langenbach  
**PHONE:** Office: 539-2992, Room #C 401  
Home: 532-8413

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An Introduction to the main problems and theories that have dominated philosophical thought in the Western world, through study and critical discussion of selected philosophical classics.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Introduce students to some of the most important ideas underlying Western thought;
2. Improve student's ability to read and write analytically;
3. Improve student's ability to present strong argument; and
4. Encourage student's interest in original and creative thought.

**TEXT:**

1. Comford (ed.), The Republic of Plato (Oxford Univ. Press)
2. Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy (Hackett)
3. Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (Prometheus)

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Two essays (one each semester) of 1200 words each: (worth 10% each);
2. Four projects (which could be essays) to be discussed with and approved by the instructor in advance of submission - worth 10% each;
3. Final Exam: Twenty potential exam questions will be provided early enough in the course so that students may prepare as much as they please for the final. All Final exam questions will be taken from the set of potential exam questions. (Worth 20%)
4. Additional criteria such as class participation, improvement in performance, creativity, etc. - 10%

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

1. Though marks on written work are based primarily on philosophical merit, any written work will be penalized for errors in composition.
2. Re-write Policy: the first essay that you write may be rewritten as often as you wish to improve both your ability to write a philosophy essay and your mark. The re-write privilege will be suspended if the essay is handed in late.
3. Students who show steady improvement throughout the course will receive the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of the final course grade.

**SCHEDULE:**

1. Assignments of Plato and part of Descartes will be covered by the Christmas break. At least three (suggested topics and specific due-dates will be given as the course progresses) will be completed during this period.
2. After the Christmas break we will study Descartes, Hume and Mill in this order. Three more assignments will be completed during the second half of the course.
3. The final exam will be taken during Final Exam week in the spring of '95.

**INSTRUCTORS COMMENTS ON WRITTEN WORK**

I will make comments on your assignments via the use of an audio cassette tape. Students who wish to receive comments must provide me with a blank audio cassette. Though I will grade your essay on grammar, composition, etc. I will not comment on it or correct it. If you are having serious difficulties with writing I suggest you report to the Writing Lab for help.