

Southeastern University
Barnett College of Ministry & Theology
Ministry & Theology
PHIL 2223 - Foundations of Philosophy
Official Syllabus

Catalog Description

In this course, students will learn to think clearly and carefully about important questions. We will grapple with fundamental questions about the nature of reality, humanity, morality, truth, knowledge, and even about thought itself. Keeping our focus on the philosophical foundations of a robust Christian worldview, we will gain insights from significant historical and contemporary thinkers. All the while, we will hone our reasoning skills as we learn to employ philosophical methods or tools—such as conceptual analysis, thought experiments, formal logic, inference to the best explanation, and simple Bayesian methods—to construct and evaluate complex arguments. In each successive unit of the course, the tools or methods learned in previous units will be applied to new philosophical questions, enabling students to practice these methods in meaningful ways. The aim of the course is to produce genuine philosophers in the etymological sense of that word: lovers of wisdom, that is, men and women who value wisdom and diligently pursue it not only in college but throughout their lives.

Prerequisite: None

Credit Hours: 3

Repeatable: Course not repeatable

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Employ philosophical methods—including conceptual analysis, thought experiments, formal logic, inference to the best explanation, and Bayesian mental models—to reason carefully about important questions.
2. Engage the work of significant historical and contemporary thinkers.
3. Critically evaluate important philosophical arguments, views, ideas, and mental models, especially those relevant to a Christian worldview (meta mental model).
4. Identify and cultivate intellectual virtues including intellectual courage, carefulness, tenacity, fair-mindedness, curiosity, honesty, and humility.
5. Understand the nature of philosophical inquiry and recognize both its practical value and its intrinsic worth as part of a flourishing Christian life.

Version History

###/###/#### v1.0 Original course proposal.