Course Syllabus

1. **The Goal** of the course is to introduce students to philosophical thinking and problems through the writings of five major philosophers, each selected from one of five periods of the history of Western philosophy. They are Plato, St. Augustine, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Nietzsche and John Dewey; from the ancient, medieval, modern, 19th-century and 20th-century periods.

**Humanities.** Philosophical thinking and problem solving are distinctly human endeavors, and can be singled out as among the activities that make us fully human. This course therefore serves to involve students in our common human heritage.

2. **The Textbook** is a course packet of reading selections from the writings of the five philosophers. It should be available for purchase for around $5 in the Student Store.

3. **Five Exams** will be given throughout the semester, based on lectures, class handouts and reading assignments. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, identification and true-false questions. The first and second exams will be worth 35 pts. each; the third and fourth exams will be worth 15 pts. each. These four exams total 100 pts. Scores on the fifth exam, a comprehensive final exam, worth 100 pts., will replace the total score for the four exams, if it is higher. For example, if your total score on the four exams is 67 pts., and your final exam score is 82 pts., your score for the course will be 82 pts., and your final grade will be a B.

4. **Final Letter Grades** will be based on students’ performances on the exams, and determined on the following scale:

- 94–100 = A
- 88–93 = A–
- 84–87 = B+
- 80–83 = B
- 76–79 = B–
- 72–75 = C+
- 68–71 = C
- 64–67 = C–
- 60–63 = D+
- 56–59 = D
- 52–55 = D–

5. **Make-ups:** Make-up exams will be permitted only if all three of the following conditions are satisfied: 1) The instructor is notified in advance; 2) Arrangements for taking the make-up exam are made within 24 hrs.; and 3) The student presents documentation of an illness or other acceptable university excuse.

Foundations Curriculum Goals for the Humanities

Courses earning Humanities credit must address the following goals:

**Goal 1.** Students will learn the subject matter of at least one discipline in the humanities.

**Goal 2.** Students will learn the research methodology applied by disciplines in the humanities. Students will learn the principles and concepts required to understand and conduct undergraduate-level research in the discipline, how identify a problem in the discipline, how to collect, organize and analyze the information necessary to solve the problem and how to present the results of these activities in a research paper.

**Goal 3.** Students will learn about the discipline’s contribution to general knowledge. Students will learn how the discipline relates to other academic disciplines and to the non-academic world and teaching students the discipline’s impact on our culture and on other cultures.
Course Schedule

Jan. 13 Introduction
Jan. 15 Plato: The Wisdom of Socrates
Jan. 20 What is Justice?
Jan. 22 The Ideal State
Jan. 27 The Four Virtues
Jan. 29 Divided Line; Allegory of the Cave
Feb. 3 The Doctrine of Recollection
Feb. 5 Exam 1
Feb. 10 St. Augustine: Mind and Memory
Feb. 12 The Problem of Evil
Feb. 17 Free Will and Grace
Feb. 19 What was God Doing before Creation?
Feb. 24 Augustine’s Social Philosophy
Feb. 26 Hobbes: The Material Mind
Mar. 3 Reason; Science; Passion
Mar. 5 State of Nature; Laws of Nature
Mar. 10 Spring Break
Mar. 12 Spring Break
Mar. 17 The Commonwealth
Mar. 19 Exam 2
Mar. 24 Nietzsche: Zarathustra and the Superman
Mar. 26 Values and Virtues
Mar. 31 The Will to Power
Apr. 2 Research in Philosophy
Apr. 7 Exam 3
Apr. 9 Dewey: Pragmatism and Democracy
Apr. 14 Experience and Thinking
Apr. 16 The Individual and the World
Apr. 21 Philosophy of Education
Apr. 23 Exam 4
May. 5 Final Exam* Tuesday, 8:00am

* For the final exam, no student arriving late will be permitted to take the exam if any other student has finished the exam and left the room.