I. Catalog Information
PHIL 20B History of Western Philosophy from: 1400 - 1800 4 Unit(s)

(See general education pages for the requirement this course meets.)
Advisory: English 1A or English as a Second Language 5.
Four hours lecture.

An introduction to the major philosophers of the Western tradition from the Renaissance through the early modern period, with a focus on thinkers such as Descartes, Hume, and Kant. An engagement with these thinkers' ideas about the nature of science, the relationship between reason and religion, and the relationship between mind and body.

II. Course Objectives
A. Explore the nature of Philosophy as a discipline and look at the place of the History of Western philosophy in the discipline.
B. Investigate the beginnings of modern Western philosophy.
C. Summarize, analyze, and critically evaluate the philosophical views of the 17th century continental philosophers.
D. Summarize, analyze, and critically evaluate the philosophical views of the early modern British philosophers.
E. Summarize, analyze, and critically evaluate the philosophical views of Kant.
F. Assess the importance of early modern philosophers for Western society.

III. Essential Student Materials
None

IV. Essential College Facilities
None

V. Expanded Description: Content and Form
A. Explore the nature of philosophy as a discipline and look at the place of the history of Western philosophy in the discipline:
   1. The place of history in philosophy as a discipline.
   2. The place of Western philosophy in the discipline.
   3. Methods of analysis used in philosophy.
   4. Comparison with the methodologies used in other philosophical traditions such as Asian and African philosophy.
B. Investigate the beginnings of modern philosophy.
   1. The re-discovery of ancient Greek and Roman texts, including the influence of the Moors and the rediscovery of Sextus Empiricus' Outlines of Pyrrhonism.
   2. The impact of exploration and colonialism.
   3. The scientific revolution.
   4. The renaissance and humanism.
C. Summarize, analyze, and critically engaging with the philosophical views of the 17th century continental philosophers (Descartes, Malebranche, Spinoza, Leibniz):
   1. Metaphysical views including Descartes' mind/body dualism and interactionism, forms of parallelism such as Leibniz's preestablished harmony theory, proofs of God's existence, Spinoza's monism.
   2. Theories of knowledge, including Descartes' foundationalism, the Cogito, and his effort to conquer skepticism.
   3. Mind/Body dualism and its implications for the understanding of gender relations.
   4. Connections between these philosophers and early modern science.
D. Summarize, analyze, and critically engaging with the philosophical views of the modern British philosophers (Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume):

1. Locke and Hume's empiricism; Locke's detailed development of idea empiricism.
2. Berkeley's idealism and criticism of Lockean realism.
3. Hume's views on causality and induction.
4. Political views including: comparison of Hobbes' and Locke's contract theories of political obligation; the place of women and members of non-Western or non-Christian groups in the political world; theories of colonialism.
5. Connections with science including Berkeley's instrumentalism, and Locke's development of the primary/secondary qualities distinction.

E. Summarize, analyze, and critically engaging with the philosophical views of Kant:

1. Theory of knowledge: conception of pure reason; analytic/synthetic distinction; a priori/a posteriori distinction; transcendental realism/idealism distinction.
2. Ethics: the categorical imperative; the kingdom of ends.
3. Aesthetics: theory of the sublime; art and nature.

F. Assess the importance of early modern philosophers for Western society and their impact on the rest of the world:

1. The rise of Western science.
2. The development of the self-conception of Western society as having a rational worldview.
3. The spread of Western science to the rest of the world and its impact on local knowledge systems.

G. Explore the contributions of women from this period:

1. Analysis of reasons there are no women in the canon from this period.
2. Sor Juana Inez de al Cruz.
3. Christine de Pisane

VI. Assignments

A. Oral: Students will participate in class discussions and in small problem solving groups.
B. Reading: Students will be assigned daily reading selections.
C. Written: Papers: Students will write answers to weekly homework problems. Students will write short papers. Exams: Students will take exams.

VII. Methods of Instruction

Lecture and visual aids,
Discussion of assigned reading,
Discussion and problem solving performed in class,
Collaborative learning and small group exercises

VIII. Methods of Evaluating Objectives

A. Students will be evaluated on their participation in small group discussions.
B. Students will be evaluated on their ability to write papers on assigned topics that demonstrate an ability to summarize, analyze, and critically evaluate philosophical ideas.
C. Students will take exams, including a comprehensive final.

IX. Texts and Supporting References

A. Examples of Primary Texts and References

B. Examples of Supporting Texts and References