

PHIL 103 : Introduction to Philosophy

This course is intended as an introduction to political philosophy as seen through an examination of some of the major texts and thinkers of the Western political tradition. Three broad themes that are central to understanding political life are focused upon: the polis experience (Plato, Aristotle), the sovereign state (Machiavelli, Hobbes), constitutional government (Locke), and democracy (Rousseau, Tocqueville). The way in which different political philosophies have given expression to various forms of political institutions and our ways of life are examined throughout the course.

Credits 3

Course Outcomes

After successfully completing the course, the learner will be able to:

- Identify the major periods and the major figures in the history of Western philosophy;
- Identify and analyze the basic problems of philosophy in the fields of metaphysics, axiology, and epistemology;
- Interpret, summarize, and paraphrase the views of philosophers as expressed in philosophical texts;
- Use the logical and critical thinking methods of philosophy to analyze and evaluate the ways in which philosophers attempt to solve the problems of philosophy;
- Locate, evaluate, and use effectively information from a variety of relevant sources; 6. state and support in clear, logical, and concise writing their own views on philosophical issues; and
- Participate actively in discussions of philosophical ideas and issues.

Competency

Humanities and Fine Arts