

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

PHIL 3303 Philosophy of the Human Person

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition and PHIL 2753 Introduction to Philosophy

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the human person from a philosophical point of view, exploring the classical debates about human nature: egoism versus altruism, freedom versus determinism, the mind body problem, the difference between man and woman, and others.

B. Additional Information

This course will serve as one of the electives for the proposed minor in Philosophy and will help to expand the department's offerings.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the unique contribution which Philosophy can make to the study of the human person.
2. Identify the major philosophical issues related to questions of personhood and human nature.
3. Describe the major philosophical positions that have been put forward in response to these issues.
4. Analyze common arguments used to justify positions in philosophical anthropology.
5. Evaluate common arguments that have been introduced to justify positions in philosophical anthropology.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Students will learn to analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will explore moral dilemmas and problems that involve or presuppose specific views on human nature.

Communication Skills

Students will apply conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to successfully communicate abstract philosophical ideas to a wide audience.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate the role which various positions on human personhood and human nature have had in molding the culture in which they live and in fashioning other cultures.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The nature of philosophical anthropology or rational psychology
- B. The nature of personhood in general and of human personhood in particular
- C. The nature of human motivation, i.e., egoism vs. altruism
- D. The nature of human action, i.e., freedom vs. determinism
- E. The constitutive elements of human nature, i.e., the mind-body problem
- F. The nature of personal identity
- G. The difference between man and woman
- H. The question of immortality for the human person