Bemidji State University

PHIL 2400: The American Mind

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

The American Mind acquaints students with American philosophical traditions, emphasizing the diversity of views on topics such as freedom, knowledge, faith, class and "the American dream." The specific themes of the course will be up to the instructor, but the course will emphasize philosophies about and from the Americas. Might not be offered every year. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 6 & 9]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/13/2019 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Native American and indigenous philosophy
2. Western imperialism and its influence on philosophy in America
3. American pragmatism
4. The American Enlightenment and philosophical debates over democracy
5. The role of philosophy in abolitionism and slavery
6. Philosophical debates over class and gender, esp. as relates to civil rights and liberation movements.
7. Philosophical influences on contemporary political movements

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. demonstrate awareness of the philosophical dimensions of debates in American politics, religion, economics and culture.
2. write nuanced, careful examinations of these debates, using philosophical history to clarify social conflict.
3. practice logical and charitable debates over philosophical issues in American history.
4. create a cogent and compelling depiction of conflict over the meaning of "the American dream."
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts
1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted