Bemidji State University

PHIL 2400: The American Mind

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 2
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, 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, peace, and "the American dream". The specific themes of the course will be up to the instructor, but the current relevance of debates in American philosophy will be the focus. Might not be offered every year. Liberal Education Goal Areas 6 & 9.

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

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Native American philosophy  
2. American puritanism  
3. American pragmatism  
4. American socialism  
5. Transcendentalism  
6. American conservatism  
7. White supremacist thought  
8. American feminism  
9. Black nationalism  
10. American anarchism  
11. American enlightenment

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 02 - Critical Thinking
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

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.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted