

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

PHI 107 Philosophy of the Americas – Mexico and The United States

Credit Hours: 3      Lec: 3

General Education Course: Institutions of the Americas

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines and compares philosophical concepts underlying the historical development of Mexico and The United States. Topics include: Colonialism and the role of religion, culture and civilization, indigenous issues and contributions, slavery, revolutions and government, economics and education, along with a focus on contemporary issues arising from the continued interaction between the two countries.

1. COURSE GOALS

1.1 Establish a foundation of philosophical methodology and issues in Western philosophy such as the role of reason, God and theology, morality, human nature, epistemology, and political theory that are relevant to the historical background of the course.

1.2 Explore the work of influential philosophers of The United States and Mexico.

1.3 Increase awareness of the Reformation and differences between Protestant and Catholic theology and their influence on the settling and development of both countries.

1.4 Elucidate how indigenous people have been treated based on different philosophies with different results.

1.5 Develop an active discourse on how culture and circumstance have impacted philosophers of both nations and prompted the production of their own unique “Peoples Philosophy.”

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

2.1 Display skills in philosophical methodology that logically analyze philosophical issues in the class.

2.2 Be able to define the main features, terminology, and vocabulary of Mexican and American philosophy.

2.3 Understand the similar problems encountered by the two countries and how those problems were managed.

2.4 Compare and contrast the ideas of one philosopher or tradition with that of an alternate philosopher or tradition.

2.5 Differentiate between the major branches of philosophy covered in the course and their relevance — through major questions, perspectives, and theories — to Mexican and American philosophy.

2.5 Generate written and original discourse that demonstrates critical thinking, reflection, evaluation, and comprehension of ideas and perspectives presented in the class.

2.6 Gain an appreciation of the two cultures and their philosophical foundations and contributions.

3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CATEGORY CRITERIA  
INSTITUTIONS OF THE AMERICAS

- Importance of exploring and/or examining how the histories and cultures of different people, including historically marginalized groups, inhabiting the geographic area now considered the United States have shaped current experiences and institutions of government.
- Governmental structures and/or philosophies important within United States and/or Tribal contexts by comparing them to non-U.S. structures and/or philosophies.

- The basic principles of American constitutional democracy and republicanism and/or indigenous political theories and how they are applied through the analysis of the U.S. Constitution, Tribal governance systems, and/or other founding documents, significant treaties, and landmark court cases.
- The major religious or spiritual doctrines, philosophies and communities that helped shape culture and policies.
- How to analyze documentary evidence and compare and contrast scholarly interpretations.
- The multifaceted history European colonialism and imperialism and their effects, including diasporas, enslavement, war, and genocide, within North America and globally.

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lecture  
4.2 Discussion

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Assignments  
5.2 Discussion  
5.3 Group activities  
5.4 Research

6. EVALUATION

- 6.1 Assignments  
6.2 Participation  
6.3 Quizzes/exams

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 Classroom Assignments: Students are responsible for work missed and for completing all work before the next class meeting. Students are responsible for participating in all oral drills and for taking all exams.
- 7.3 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 7.4 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.5 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.6 Textbooks and materials: Students are required to bring notebook or looseleaf book, pens, pencils, dictionaries, and purchase textbook required for class.
- 7.7 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester. Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid. For online classes, student attendance in an online class is defined as the following (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
- Submitting an academic assignment
  - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
  - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
  - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
  - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course