* **SUNY Gen Ed course**: Humanities

**PHI 101 The Examined Life: An Introduction to Philosophy**

**Enduring Questions (EQ) sections of PHI 101**



**Catalog Description:**

This course introduces students to some of the main issues in Western philosophy. Students will be exposed to classic and contemporary writings from core areas of philosophy such as epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, social/political philosophy, and aesthetics. By critically evaluating the arguments that arise in these areas, students will develop a deeper understanding of the nature of philosophical inquiry. Emphasis will also be placed on how thinking philosophically can help us address many important contemporary issues



Does God exist? Do we have free will? How much about the world do I really know? You have probably already thought at least a little bit about these, and other, philosophical questions. Of course, basically everyone who has ever existed has pondered these sorts of questions at some point! So, to really get a handle on these topics it is a good idea to look at the kinds of answers proposed by super-smart thinkers from different times and places. And this is exactly what you will get the chance do in and Enduring Questions (EQ) section of PHI 101!

* An EQ section of PHI 101 is not harder than other sections. The difference is in the approach: in an EQ
 section, you will read many ***enduring texts***, i.e. texts that have spoken on ***enduring questions*** to many
 different kinds of people in many different historical and cultural circumstances. Through critical reading
 and thinking – and some in-class discussions – you will discover how these texts can help you navigate your
 life in the 21st century. Here are some more of those questions (you will encounter these in all EQ sections):
* *What is the nature of Justice?*
* *What is Happiness? What are the conditions and behaviors most conducive to achieving happiness?*
* *What rights and liberties are inherent to being human? What responsibilities do humans have?*
* *What is the nature of beauty, love, truth, and friendship?*

A And other more contemporary questions that help us think about these questions:

* *Can computers think?*
* *Do we live in a simulation?*
* *Why believe scientists?*
* *What is my personal identity?*

What could be more fun than a class that addresses all of this?!

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