

HZT4U Philosophy: Questions and Theories

Board: Toronto District School Board **School:** R.H. King Academy
Curriculum Leader: Mr. Hoekstra
Policy Document: *Ontario Curriculum Grades 11 and 12, Social Sciences and Humanities, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2013.*
Pre-requisite: Any university or university/college preparation course in social sciences and humanities, English, or Canadian and world studies.
Class Text: **Sproule, W. (2003) Philosophy in Action. Markham: Fitzhenry and Whiteside**
Replacement cost \$75

Philosophy examines the critical questions of life, and the answers suggested by some great thinkers of our past. In this course we will study some of the major fields of philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, social philosophy, and political philosophy. Students will learn critical-thinking skills, the main ideas expressed by philosophers from a variety of the world's traditions, how to develop and explain their own philosophical ideas, and how to apply those ideas to contemporary social issues and personal experiences. The course will also help students refine skills used in researching and investigating topics in philosophy.

This course offers students a host of opportunities for engaging some of the great philosophical issues and questions of the last 2500 years. Students develop a range of analytic and synthetic thinking skills, enabling them to tackle the key concepts, issues, and questions of philosophy. Students also develop research and writing skills and become stronger logical thinkers. Students develop interest in a wide range of important, philosophically-oriented issues and are challenged to think about their world in an engaged, critical manner. This course introduces the student to the major areas of philosophy:

Assessment and Evaluation

Teachers regularly assess student achievement. Formative assessments ensure the students are on track with respect to meeting the learning expectations. These include homework questions, worksheets, interviews, exit cards, journal entries, etc.

Summative assessments are evaluations of student achievement of learning expectations. These include tests, presentations, assignments, and unit culminating activities.

70% of the mark is based on course work. The remaining 30% is the summative evaluation at the end of the course. See the breakdown below.

70% Course Work			
Category	Value	Description	Examples
Knowledge and Understanding	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of facts, terms, definitions Understanding of concepts and ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz and/or unit test Written/oral responses
Thinking	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of research and inquiry Processing and analyzing Critical and creative thinking: problem solving, decision making, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research project Data analysis
Communication	13%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression and organization of ideas Communicating to an appropriate audience Use of appropriate conventions to communicate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poster Oral presentation
Application	13%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of knowledge and skills to familiar and new contexts Making connections between various contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing from different perspectives Concept web Role Play
Essay	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will research and then evaluate a philosophical issue 	
30% Summative Evaluation			
Exam	30%		

Unit	Major Themes	Time*
1. Introduction to Philosophy	What is philosophy?, Why think about thinking?	1 week
2. Natural Philosophy + Logic	Understandings from the natural world, Legends/Myths, The first philosophies, How do thoughts develop?, What is a valid argument, How have thoughts/ideas evolved	2 week
3. Philosophy of Science + Ethics	Is science objective?, The exploration of right and wrong, What obligations do we have to others?	2 weeks
4. Human Nature	What is the nature of humans?, What is our motivation?, Feminism	4 weeks
5. Metaphysics + Aesthetics	What is reality?, What is the self?, What is the meaning of life?, What is art?, What is the role of art?, What is beauty?	3 weeks
6. Social and Political Philosophy	Study of rights and responsibilities of citizens and governments, What is justice?	In seminars (2 weeks)

*Timing for each unit may be change with the interests of the class and current events

Assignments, Tests, Independent Study

The accompanying chart breaks down the major independent course work by unit and task. Not all of your assignments are listed, but instead the chart focuses on the major assignments of each unit. The assignments may be modified or replaced by an alternative.

Unit	Assignments	Test
1	Dinner table philosophy	
2	Philosophical Defence, discussion circle	Quiz/Test Natural Philosophy + Logic (K, T, A)
3	Debate, role play, paragraph response, discussion circle	Test Phil. of Science and Ethics(K,T,A)
4	Primary source evaluation, literature circles, discussion circle	Essay Test (C,T)
5	Debate, make art presentation and defence	Test (K,T,A)
6	Presentation, discussion circle	Daily presentation quizzes

Course Requirements

- All assignments should be submitted by the deadline. Once the teacher has marked an assignment and handed it back to the class, no more will be accepted for marking.
- Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day.
- Plagiarized work will receive 0% and it will be reported on the student's record.
- In order to perform well in class, students need good attendance and work skills. Students are expected to:
 - ✓ Attend every class in proper uniform
 - ✓ Come to class prepared with all necessary materials
 - ✓ Complete daily review of the day's learning and all assigned homework
 - ✓ Be responsible for any work missed (e.g. ask a classmate, catch up on reading, collect handouts)
 - ✓ Hand in work on time
 - ✓ Respect the classroom and the people in it