

# PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: PHILOSOPHY

### Course Overview and Essential Skills

This course provides an introduction to philosophical thought which looks at questions regarding human nature and the world around us. Students will explore the major philosophical schools of thought which include Logic and Reason, Aesthetics, Epistemology, Ethics, Metaphysics, and Existentialism and investigate how great philosophers have addressed these throughout history. Students will learn how to discuss, analyze, clarify and create arguments that will help them to be successful in an academic context.

### Course Textbook and Required Materials

- Writing Utensil and Perfer Organizational Tools

### Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
<u>Unit 1:</u> What is the Best Way to Think (Reason and Logic)	Concepts Taught: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand that reason and logic are the building blocks to philosophical argument.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the difference between valid and invalid philosophical arguments.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the process in constructing a good philosophical argument.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the application of logic.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the contributions of Aristotle to the study of Logic.</li> <li>○ The students will understand how to define and recognize fallacies in philosophical argument</li> </ul> Skills Taught: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinons from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinons</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question wil no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> Resources Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> </ul>	2 Weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "The examined life: Introduction to Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teen" Text</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas."</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Unit 2:</u> What is Beauty (Aesthetics)</p>	<p>Concepts Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will be able to understand that love has many definitions.</li> <li>○ The students will be able to understand that beauty is a matter of fact and a matter of taste.</li> <li>○ The students will be able to understand how philosophers have described the nature of aesthetic value.</li> <li>○ The students will be able to understand the purpose of art.</li> <li>○ The students will be able to understand difference between health and beauty.</li> </ul> <p>Skills Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinons from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinons</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question wil no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> <p>Resources Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "The examined life: Introduction to Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teen" Text"Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas."</li> </ul>	<p>3 Weeks</p>
<p><u>Unit 3:</u> What is Truth and Knowledge (Epistemology)</p>	<p>Concepts Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand rationalism and empiricism and how they relate to epistemology.</li> <li>○ The students will understand Plato's divided line and philosopher-king theories of epistemology.</li> <li>○ The students will understand how acquisition of knowledge is limited.</li> </ul>	<p>3 Weeks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand the impact of the Scientific method on the study of knowledge.</li> <li>○ The students will understand differing theories on how humans gain knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>Skills Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinons from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinons</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question wil no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> <p>Resources Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "The examined life: Introduction to Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teen" Text</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas."</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Unit 4: What is Right and Wrong (Ethics)</u></p>	<p>Concepts Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand how ethics and morality apply to everyday life.</li> <li>○ The students will understand multiple theories on the good life and society.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the different answers to the question "How we ought to live?"</li> <li>○ The students will understand how specific acts have long term and short tern consequences.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the different answers to the question "Do the ends justify the means?"</li> </ul> <p>Skills Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinons from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinons</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question wil no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> <p>Resources Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> </ul>	<p>3 Weeks</p>

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<p><u>Unit 5: What is God and the Universe (Metaphysics)</u></p>	<p>Concepts Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand the idea of reality through abstract thinking.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the world in Metaphysical terms.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the historical search for the ultimate nature of reality.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the dynamic of paradoxes in metaphysics.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the implications of the mind body approach in studying metaphysics.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the philosophical discussions surrounding the nature of God and the Universe.</li> </ul> <p>Skills Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinions from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinions</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question will no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> <p>Resources Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "The examined life: Introduction to Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teen" Text</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas."</li> </ul>	<p>3 Weeks</p>
<p><u>Unit 6: What is the Meaning of Life (Existentialism)</u></p>	<p>Concepts Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand that existentialism is culmination of many philosophical schools of thought.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the nature of an existential moment.</li> </ul>	<p>2 Weeks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The students will understand self reflection and authenticity in one personal life.</li> <li>○ The students will understand the existential search for meaning in life and suffering.</li> </ul> <p>Skills Taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understanding ideas and opinons from multiple view points</li> <li>○ Developing ideas and opinons</li> <li>○ Discussion and Debate</li> <li>○ Active listening</li> <li>○ Thinking and Answer Question wil no specific final answer</li> <li>○ Argumentation</li> </ul> <p>Resources Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Into the Wormhole" With Morgan Freeman DVD series</li> <li>○ "Eastern and Western Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "The examined life: Introduction to Philosophy" DVD Series</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teen" Text</li> <li>○ "Philosophy for Teens: Questioning Life's Big Ideas."</li> </ul>	
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***\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***