1. Introduction
Since the time of the ancient Greeks, philosophy has developed into a discipline which asks fundamental questions about all areas of human activity, while seeking to offer plausible answers to such questions. Past philosophers lived in particular historical and cultural circumstances, but their questions and answers have inspired many views of how human beings understand, interpret and change themselves and the reality around them.

At Intermediate Level, Philosophy gives students the opportunity to develop constructive thinking skills. It invites them to explore how Philosophy relates to and complements other subjects such as the Sciences, Languages, Psychology, Sociology, History, Art and Literature, Law and Politics, Religion, Computing, Marketing and Communications. Through the presentation of historical, theoretical and practical considerations, this syllabus is designed to illustrate how the contribution of philosophy lies precisely in giving meaning to how people, as individual persons and societies, live these different realities. Studying Philosophy strengthens the development of a deeper, critical reflection on practical issues in everyday life.

2. Aims
The Intermediate Level course in Philosophy will enable students to:
   a. gain knowledge and understanding of Philosophy through consideration of some important philosophical issues and approaches to problems;
   b. develop a rigorous approach, both critical and constructive, to the study of Philosophy and the nature of arguments;
   c. practise and enhance their abilities to construct, develop and maintain clear and coherent argument;
   d. acquire skills in comprehension, interpretation, analysis and evaluation that facilitate the development of independent thinking, based on a critical examination of the evidence and rational argumentation. These skills are applicable in the study of other academic subjects and in reflection on other important aspects of human experience.

3. Objectives
Based on the above aims, students should be able to:
   a. define/describe the main problems raised by the philosophers presented and their tentative answers.
   b. deal confidently with structured questions concerning logic.
   c. identify the philosophical, existential and ethical concerns of the topics presented and their continued relevance.
   d. present well-structured and logically sound arguments in essay form.
   e. show a thorough knowledge of the content covered and take a critical stance where necessary.
4. Method of Assessment
The Assessment consists of a three (3) hour written paper, divided into two (2) sections. Section A covers Module 1 (Logic and Reasoning) of the syllabus and carries 30% of the marks for this paper. Candidates will answer three (3) out of four (4) questions. Section B covers Module 2 (Ethics and Society). Candidates will have to answer a compulsory question and another question from a choice of three (3). Each answer will be in essay form and carries 35% of the mark of this paper.

5. Content

Module 1: Logic and Reasoning

Part 1: Introduction to Logic
1. Deduction and Induction
2. Truth and Validity
3. Fallacies:
   i. Argument from Ignorance
   ii. Appeal to Inappropriate Authority
   iii. Argument Ad Hominem
   iv. Begging the Question
   v. Appeal to Emotion
   vi. Appeal to Pity
   vii. Appeal to Force
   viii. Irrelevant Conclusion

Part 2: Propositional Logic
1. Elementary Propositions
2. Complex propositions
3. Logical Junctors:
   i. Negator ¬
   ii. Conjunctor ∧
   iii. Adjunctor ∨
   iv. Disjunctor ⊕
   v. Subjunctor →
   vi. Bi-Subjunctor ↔
4. Valid Arguments
5. Logically True Propositions
Part 3: Formal Logic

1. The Implication <
2. The Equivalence >=
3. Rules of Inference:
   i. Modus Ponens
   ii. Modus Tollens
4. Valid Forms and Admissible Rules:
   i. Reflexivity
   ii. Transitivity
   iii. Symmetry
   iv. Generalization and Instantiation
   v. Partial Replacement Rule

Module 2: Ethics and Society

Part 1: The Classical Model: How Should One Live?

1. The Sophists: Truth is Relative
   i. Protagoras – Moral Relativism; Man is the Measure of All Things.
   ii. Gorgias – Moral Nihilism; Moral Truth is Fiction
2. Socrates: Moral Optimism
   i. Socrates’ Love for the Truth
   ii. Socratic Method (Dialectic)
   iii. Knowledge of the Truth and Right Actions.
3. Aristotle: Practical Ethics to Achieve Self-Fulfilment
   i. Definition of Man as a Rational Animal
   ii. The Proper Function of Human Beings
   iii. The Pursuit of Virtue and the Golden Mean
4. Epicurus: Practical Ethics as Pleasure Seeking
   i. Material Definitions of Human Nature
   ii. Fear of Death and Superstitions
   iii. Epicurean Pleasure-Seeking Principle

Part 2: The Modern Model: How Should One Act?

5. Kantianism: Doing Good for its Own Sake
   i. Virtue and Happiness – ‘Faring Well’ and ‘Doing Right’
   ii. Kant and the Good Will
   iii. Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives
   iv. Pure Practical Reason and the Moral Law
   v. Univerlizability Test
6. Utilitarianism: The Best Outcome
   i. Utility and the Greatest Happiness Principle
   ii. Act and Rule Utilitarianism
   iii. Utilitarianism and Consequences
   iv. Does the End Justify the Means?

Part 3: The Contemporary Model: How Might One Live?

7. Nietzsche: Should One Be Moral?
   i. The Crisis of Morality
   ii. A New Morality Beyond Good and Evil
   iii. The Will to Power and the Overman

8. Sartre and Existentialism: Freedom and Choice
   i. Sartre and Radical Freedom
   ii. Anguish and Bad Faith
   iii. Acting in Good Faith
   iv. The Creation of Value

Part 4: The Internet and Society: How Might We Act?

9. The Internet and Ethical Values
   i. The Role of Morality in Cyberspace
   ii. Ethical Values for the Digital Age

10. Privacy and Cyberspace
    i. Definition and Theory of Privacy
    ii. Personal Information on the Internet
    iii. Consumer privacy on the Internet
    iv. Case Study – Newport Electronics

Part 5: Life and Death Issues: How Might We Regulate?

11. Reproductive Technology
    i. IVF - ET
    ii. Surrogacy
    iii. Cloning
    iv. Applying Moral Theories

12. Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide
    i. Deciding Life and Death:
      • Voluntary and Non-voluntary Active Euthanasia
      • Voluntary and Non-voluntary Passive Euthanasia
      • Physician-Assisted Suicide
    ii. Autonomy, Mercy and Harm
    iii. Applying Moral Theories
6. Recommended Texts


Riolo, V., *Introduction to Logic* (Malta: MUP 2001)

7. Further Reading


Spinello, R., *Cyberethics* (Boston: Jones and Bartlet 2006)


8. Online Sources


Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: [http://iep.utm.edu](http://iep.utm.edu)