

## **HZT4U - Critical Expectations, Religious Education - Philosophy, Grade 12**

### **Metaphysics**

**MEV.01** · summarize the main questions, concepts, and theories of metaphysics;

**MEV.02** · evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of responses to some of the main questions of metaphysics defended by some major philosophers and schools of philosophy, and defend their own responses;

**MEV.03** · demonstrate the relevance of metaphysical questions and theories to everyday life;

### **Logic and the Philosophy of Science**

**PSV.01** · identify the main questions in formal and informal logic, and in the philosophy of science;

**PSV.02** · apply logical and critical thinking skills in practical contexts, and in detecting logical fallacies;

### **Epistemology**

**EPV.01** · identify the main questions, concepts, and theories of epistemology;

**EPV.02** · evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of responses to some of the main questions of epistemology defended by some major philosophers and schools of philosophy, and defend their own responses;

### **Ethics**

**ETV.01** · demonstrate an understanding of the main questions, concepts, and theories of ethics;

**ETV.02** · evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of responses to ethical questions and moral problems defended by some major philosophers and schools of philosophy, and defend their own responses;

**ETV.03** · illustrate the relevance of philosophical theories of ethics to concrete moral problems in everyday life;

### **Social and Political Philosophy**

**PPV.01** · demonstrate an understanding of the main questions, concepts, and theories of social and political philosophy;

**PPV.02** · evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the responses to the main questions of social and political philosophy defended by some major philosophers and schools of philosophy, and defend their own responses;

# HZT 4U Grade 12 Philosophy – Big Ideas

This course introduces students to some of the main areas of philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, ethics, and social 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.

**By the end of the course, students will:**

## **Metaphysics**

- Form a view of human nature and the importance of personhood based on examination of various theories
- Form a worldview based on understanding of theories of reality
- To understand the major theories of Metaphysics, for example Dualism, Materialism, Idealism, Existentialism, etc., and to be able to trace how each of these systems, affect approaches in Epistemology and Ethics
- Appreciate a rational analysis for the existence of God
- Ultimately... develop a personal philosophy of life

## **Logic and the Philosophy of Science**

- Apply inductive/deductive reasoning in philosophical argument and scientific methodology
- Recognize the fallacies in reasoning
- Understand the role of and limits to science as means of attaining truth

## **Epistemology**

- Understand the role of faith and reason as valid sources of knowledge
- Examine truth and the nature of knowledge
- To trace the development of Empiricism and Rationalism and how this debate led to Skepticism; as well as Kant and others philosophical attempts to deal with Skepticism

## **Ethics**

- Understand and analyze various theories of ethics
- Examine various theories from faith perspective
- Apply the theories to concrete moral problems in society
- To be able to understand that your beliefs in Metaphysics will affect your ethics, for example a materialist view will lead to a different ethical position than the Western Religious view

## **Social and Political Philosophy**

- Understand the theories of social and political philosophy and their historical development
- Use the theories as framework to question and analyze current political structures
- **Ultimately be able to trace the logical consequences of each system so that, for example, if you are a materialist it will affect your epistemology, so that it will affect your ethics...**

## **PHILOSOPHERS**

The major philosophers studied in the course include:

Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, Rene Descartes, John Locke, George Berkeley, Voltaire, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill, Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, William James, Edmund Husserl, Martin Buber, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Martin Heidegger, Karl Popper, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Simone Weil, Thomas Kuhn, John Rawls, Thales, Karl Marx, Charles Taylor, Francis Bacon, Bertrand Russell, Brad Blanshaw, Sigmund Freud, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Buddha, B. F. Skinner, Lawrence Kohlberg

## **KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS**

The nature of the human person;  
Free-will and human freedom;  
Aristotle's natural ontology;  
Time and the continuity of the person;  
The existence of God and the problem of evil;  
Moral relativism and objective moral positions;  
Idealism, materialism and pragmatism;  
Existentialism, essentialism and anti-realism  
Consequentialist and non-consequentialist ethical reasoning;  
Conceptual analysis;  
Theories of truth;  
Rationalism versus empiricism;  
Virtue ethical theories;  
Natural law;  
Kant's Categorical Imperative;  
Social contract theories and the common good;  
Utilitarianism;  
Justice, the role of law and Catholic social justice principles;  
Inductive and deductive reasoning and the scientific method