

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

University: Catholic University in Ružomberok	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Letters	
Course code: CAP/01Y30047Y/20	Course title: The Big Questions of Philosophy
Type and range of planned learning activities and teaching methods: Form of instruction: Seminar Recommended study range: hours weekly: 2 hours per semester: 26 Teaching method: on-site (distance method according to the document Príkaz rektora P-8/2020 since 15. 10. 2020)	
Credits: 4	
Recommended semester/trimester: 2.	
Level of study: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Requirements for passing the course: Active participation and a final paper (argumentative essay) that demonstrates the development of critical thinking and writing skills.	
Learning outcomes of the course: The aim of this course is to present selected philosophical questions about the foundations of knowledge, the nature of humans, the nature of society, etc. Students will have a chance to learn about various arguments for and against various responses to these philosophical questions. At the end of this course, students: (i) will have deeper understanding of philosophy and its various questions, (ii) will be able to formulate main arguments regarding selected questions, and (iii) will write an argumentative essay demonstrating their ability to think critically and in a structured way.	
Course contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an Argument? How to Write an Argumentative Essay? • Is It All Relative? • Justice as Fairness. Can Reasonable People Agree on Justice? • Has Liberalism Failed? • Can Modern Society Endure Without Religion? • Make Orwell and Huxley Fiction Again! • Memory, Free Speech and Punishment. Should Denial of Historical Events Be Crime? • Are Humans Hardwired for Wars? • What Is the Meaning of Life? • Are We Free? • What Do We Know? Analyzing Sample Argumentative Essays	
Recommended or required literature: Blackburn, S. (2009) The Big Questions: Philosophy. New York – London: Quercus. Blackburn, S. (1999) Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy. New York: Oxford University Press. Davis, J., Liss, R. (2012) Effective Academic Writing 3. New York: Oxford University Press	

Dawson, D. (1996) „The Origins of War: Biological and Anthropological Theories“. In: History and Theory, roč. 35, č. 1, s. 1–28.

Densley, J., Peterson, J. (2016) „Aggression Between Social Groups“. In: Bushman, B. (ed.) Aggression and Violence: A Social Psychological Perspective. New York: Routledge, s. 275–289.

Mead, M. (1990) „Warfare is Only an Invention - Not a Biological Necessity“. In: Hunt, D. (ed.) The Dolphin Reader. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, s. 415–421.

Nagel, T. (1987) What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy. New York: Oxford University Press.

Oshima, A., Hogue, A. (2006) Writing Academic English. White Plains, NY: Pearson Longman.

Zalta, E. N. (ed.) The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/>>

Language of instruction:

English

Notes:

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 0

A	B	C	D	E	FX
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Name of lecturer(s): doc. Eugen Zeleňák, PhD.

Last modification: 21.02.2021

Supervisor(s): doc. Mgr. Marek Babic, PhD., doc. RNDr. Pavel Bella, PhD., prof. PhDr. Ingrid Emmerová, PhD., doc. Ing. Miroslav Saniga, CSc., Administrátor Systému, prof. Nóra Séllei, PhD., DrSc., prof. PhDr. Ivo Čermák, CSc., doc. Ing. Igor Černák, PhD.