BIG IDEAS

- Philosophy is a discipline that examines the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.
- Philosophy provides tools for investigating meaning and fostering understanding of different ways of thinking.
- Examining questions in philosophy allows people to question their assumptions and better understand their own beliefs.
- While philosophical questions often examine issues with no definitive answers, logic and reasoned arguments can show which answers have more or less value.

Learning Standards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Curricular Competencies</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<td><strong>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Students are expected to know the following:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Use philosophical inquiry processes and reasoning skills to respond to arguments and questions related to major issues in philosophy</td>
<td>- methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy</td>
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<td>- Assess the relevance of philosophical ideas for everyday life and current social and political issues</td>
<td>- metaphysical theories about the nature of reality</td>
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<td>- Analyze philosophical ideas and assess their significance (significance)</td>
<td>- epistemological theories about knowledge and truth</td>
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<td>- Compare the justification for different philosophical perspectives after investigating points of contention and the strengths and weaknesses of various arguments (evidence)</td>
<td>- social and political philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Compare and contrast continuity, change, and divergence of ideas, disciplines, and schools of thought (continuity and change)</td>
<td>- theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics</td>
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<td>- Assess the development and impact of diverse ideas and systems of thought (cause and consequence)</td>
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<td>- Explain different philosophical perspectives by considering the norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs of the philosophers who developed them (perspective)</td>
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• methods of reasoning and argument in philosophy:
  
  Sample topics:
  – logic and rational argument
  – logical fallacies
  – Socratic dialogue
  – syllogisms
  – induction and deduction
  – criticising and making closing arguments
  – rational decision making

• metaphysical theories about the nature of reality:
  
  Sample topics:
  – idealism
  – realism
  – materialism
  – personal identity
  – determinism and free will
  – theism, deism, and atheism
  – nihilism and existentialism
  – positivism
  – postmodernism

• epistemological theories about knowledge and truth:
  
  Sample topics:
  – rationalism
  – empiricism
  – pragmatism
  – skepticism
  – relativism
  – appearance and reality

• social and political philosophy:
  
  Sample topics:
  – justice (e.g., distributive, restorative, retributive)
### Content – Elaborations

- rights (e.g., positive/negative, individual/group)
- contractarianism
- communitarianism and individualism
- libertarianism
- feminist philosophy
- anarchism
- Marxism

**theories of morality, ethics, and aesthetics:**

*Sample topics:*
- the good life
- egoism versus altruism
- deontology
- utilitarianism
- virtue ethics
- environmental ethics
- biomedical ethics
- nihilism
- the nature and value of beauty
- art and emotion
- aesthetic imagination and truth
- the role of aesthetics (e.g., elegance) in science
- objectivism and subjectivism in artistic judgments