

**Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board**  
**St. Patrick High School**  
**Course Information Sheet**



**COURSE TITLE:** Introduction to Philosophy      **GRADE:** 12      **CODE:** HZT4U1      **YEAR:**  
**CREDIT VALUE:** 1      **PREREQUISITES:** N/A      **TEACHER:**

**Course Description**

This course addressed three (or more) of the main areas of philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy, and aesthetics. 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. The course will also help students refine skills used in researching and investigating topics in philosophy.

**How This Course Supports The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**

One of the strongest themes found in the teachings of the Catholic Church concerns social justice. This theme refers to a number of issues raised in this course. The respect for human rights includes the respect for individual rights, Aboriginal rights, labour rights, feminist rights and cultural group rights. The teachings of Christ concerning the need for community are reflected in Canada's constant struggle to define that community.

**Course Resources and Materials**

Philosophy: Questions and Theories  
 Maps  
 Audio/Visual resources

**Main Areas of Study**

Strand	Strand Details
Metaphysics	Investigate ideas concerning the nature of reality and the existence of a supreme being
Logic and the Philosophy of Science	Understand the concept of formal and informal argument and fallacies of both. Investigate the evolution of scientific thought and its application to modern times.
Political and Social Philosophy	Analyze the various concepts of government. Consider conflicting attitudes towards political and social issues.
Aesthetics	Consider and evaluate the various concepts of art, truth and beauty.
Research and Inquiry	Students are to research and report on a topic relevant to the course. This activity will demonstrate critical thinking skills and written communication skills.

**Unit Titles**

Unit #1:	Introduction	10 hours
Unit #2:	Logic and the Philosophy of Science	25 hours
Unit #3:	Metaphysics	25 hours
Unit #4:	Political and Social Philosophy	20 hours
Unit #5:	Aesthetics	20 hours
Unit # 6	Independent Study	10 hours

**Work Ethics and Learning Skills/Attitudes**

It is expected that students will demonstrate the following learning skills:

- Works Independently
- Teamwork
- Organization
- Work Habits
- Initiative

These learning skills are evaluated using a four point scale (**E** – Excellent, **G** – Good, **S** – Satisfactory, **N** – Needs Improvement). Learning skills will be included on the report card but not reflected in the mark.

For successful life long learning, learning skills are an integral part of all learning and are aligned with the Conference Board of Canada – Employability Skills.

**Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning**

Student achievement of the learning expectations will be evaluated according to the following breakdowns. The percentage balances of achievement chart categories are derived from the approximate proportion of expectations that fit within each category.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>70 %</b>
<b>This includes tests, assignments and participation in debate, discussion and class presentation.</b>	
<b>FINAL EVALUATION</b>	<b>30 %</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Evaluating Student Learning Using the Achievement Chart**

The achievement chart provides a reference point for all assessment practice and a framework within which to assess and evaluate student achievement.

Percentage Grade Range	Achievement Level	Summary Description
80 – 100%	Level 4	A very high to outstanding level of achievement. Achievement is above the provincial standard.
70 – 79%	Level 3	A high level of achievement. Achievement is at the provincial standard.
60 – 69%	Level 2	A moderate level of achievement. Achievement is below, but approaching, the provincial standard.
50 – 59%	Level 1	A passable level of achievement. Achievement is below the provincial standard.
Below 50%		Insufficient achievement of curriculum expectations. A credit will not be granted.

**Communication**

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to constantly monitor student progress throughout the semester. Parents/guardians are always welcome to contact the teacher at the school if they are concerned about student progress. Student achievement will be formally communicated to parents at mid-term and at the end of the semester with the Provincial Report Card. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their achievement and to approach their teacher if they require extra help.