

Syllabus

Code/Name	SEC 401.29 / Philosophy
Type	Elective
Credit/ECTS	2/2
Hour per Week	2 (2+0+0)
Level/Year	Undergraduate/4
Semester	Fall
Classroom	
Content	This course introduces students to philosophy through accessible philosophical questions, everyday problems, and contemporary issues. Rather than focusing primarily on the history of philosophy, the course encourages students to question assumptions, examine different viewpoints, construct arguments, and engage in philosophical discussion. Topics include the nature and purpose of philosophy, personal identity, consciousness, artificial intelligence, genetic determinism, gene editing, free will, reality and simulation, ethical dilemmas, happiness and the good life, the nature of science, human nature, and the future of humanity.
Prerequisites	No formal prerequisites. The course is designed as an interdisciplinary elective and does not require prior knowledge of philosophy.
Textbooks	Primary Selected short philosophical texts, videos and thought experiments provided by the instructor
Objectives	- To introduce students to fundamental philosophical questions and ways of philosophical thinking. - To encourage students to question assumptions and examine everyday ideas from different perspectives. - To develop students' ability to construct, explain, compare, and critically evaluate arguments. - To connect philosophical questions with science, technology, genetics, artificial intelligence, ethics, and everyday life. - To develop confidence in expressing and discussing philosophical ideas respectfully in English.
Course Outcomes	In this course you will be able to: C01: Identify and explain fundamental philosophical questions and concepts. C02: Discuss philosophical problems using clear reasoning and relevant examples. C03: Compare different positions on ethical, epistemological, metaphysical, and philosophical problems. C04: Construct and critically evaluate arguments presented in philosophical discussions. C05: Relate philosophical questions to contemporary issues in science, technology, society, and human life.

Weekly Schedule of Topics

W	Topic
1	What Is Philosophy? Why Do We Philosophize?
2	The Ship of Theseus: Personal Identity and What Makes Us the Same Person
3	Consciousness and the Self: Are We More Than Our Brains?
4	Artificial Intelligence: Can a Machine Think or Be Conscious?
5	Genetic Determinism: Are We Defined by Our Genes?
6	CRISPR and Human Genetic Modification: Should We Change Human Nature?
7	Free Will: Do We Really Choose What We Do?
8	Reality and Simulation: How Do We Know What Is Real?
9	The Trolley Problem: How Should We Make Moral Decisions?
10	Happiness and the Good Life: What Makes a Life Worth Living?
11	What Is Science? Does Science Discover Truth?
12	Human Nature: Are Humans Naturally Good, Bad, or Neither?
13	The Future of Humanity: What Does It Mean to Be Human?
14	Review and Open Philosophical Discussion

Professional Contribution

Contribution to Program Outcomes*

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9	PO10	PO11
CO1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
CO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
CO3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
CO4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
CO5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0

* Contribution Level | 0: None | 1: Very Low | 2: Low | 3: Medium | 4: High | 5: Very High

Special Conditions	- The course includes philosophical questions and in-class discussions related to weekly topics. - Students are expected to actively participate in question-and-answer sessions and classroom discussions. - There is generally no single expected answer to the philosophical questions discussed in class; students are expected to support their views with reasons and examples. - Short readings, thought experiments, videos, and contemporary examples may be used to support selected weekly topics.
Requirements	- No prior knowledge of philosophy is required. - Students should be willing to express their ideas, ask questions, listen to alternative viewpoints, and participate respectfully in discussions.
Course Policy	- Students must arrive to class on time and attend lectures regularly. - English must be used for all classroom communication, including discussions. - A minimum attendance of 70% is mandatory; students who fail to meet this requirement will receive a grade of DZ. - Students are expected to follow the weekly course schedule and actively engage with the topics covered.

Alanya Alaaddin Keykubat University | Rafet Kayış Faculty of Engineering
Department of Genetics and Bioengineering 2026-2027 Fall Semester

Cheating & Plagiarism	• Copying or allowing others to copy work during exams, assignments, or presentations and using AI tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini are considered cheating. • Using text, figures, tables, or ideas from books, scientific articles, or electronic sources without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. • Any form of academic dishonesty will be penalized according to university regulations, and the consequence is a grade of FF for the course.		
	Evaluation	Midterm	20%
		Attendance/Participation	30%
		<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>50%</u>
	Total	100%	
Instructor			
Name/Surname	Hüseyin GÜL	Email	huseyin.gul@alanya.edu.tr
Room	210	Office Hours	Monday-Thursday 10:30-12:30

Prepared by Hüseyin GÜL on February 7th, 2026