

Course Information

Course Code:

GST 203

Course Title:

Introduction to Philosophy and Logic

Credit Unit:

2

Course Status:

Compulsory

Semester:

2nd

Required Study Hour:

4 hours per week

Year of Course Review

2018

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Ice Breaker

Upload your passport and introduce yourself by stating your names, what you do for a living, your hobby, your expectation in this course and the name you would prefer to be called during this course.



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Course Guide

Introduction

Welcome to **GST 203: A Study Guide for the Distance Learner**. GST 203 is a two-credit unit course that has minimum duration of one semester. It is a compulsory course for undergraduate students in Science Programmes including Science Education in the university. The course guides you on the techniques of studying to achieve academic success through open and distance learning.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply philosophical thoughts on daily activities
2. Integrate philosophical thoughts in different field of study.

Working through this Course

To successfully complete this course, read the study units, listen to the audios and videos, do all assessments, open the links and read, participate in discussion forums, read the recommended books and other materials provided, prepare your portfolios, and participate in the online facilitation.

Each study unit has introduction, intended learning outcomes, the main content, conclusion, summary and references/further readings. The introduction will tell you the expectations in the study unit. Read and note the intended learning outcomes (ILOs). The intended learning outcomes tell you what you should be able to do at the completion of each study unit. So, you can evaluate your learning at the end of each unit to ensure you have achieved the intended learning outcomes. To meet the intended learning outcomes, knowledge is presented in texts, video and links arranged into modules and units. Click on the links as may be directed but where you are reading the text off line, you will have to copy and paste the link address into a browser. You can download the audios and videos to view off line. You can also print or download the texts and save in your computer or external drive. The conclusion gives you the theme of the knowledge you are taking away from the unit. Unit summaries are presented in downloadable audios and videos.

There are two main forms of assessments – the formative and the summative. The formative assessments will help you monitor your learning. This is presented as in-text questions, discussion forums and Self-Assessment Exercises.

The summative assessments would be used by the university to evaluate your academic performance. This will be given as Computer Base Test (CBT) which serve as continuous assessment and final examinations. A minimum of three computer base test will be given with only one final examination at the

end of the semester. You are required to take all the computer base tests and the final examination.

Study Units

There are 23 study units in this course divided into five modules. The modules and units are presented as follows:

Module 1 An Overview of Philosophy

- Unit 1 Definition and Scope of Philosophy
- Unit 2 Methods of Philosophy
- Unit 3 Branches of Philosophy
- Unit 4 Philosophy and other Disciplines Contents
- Unit 5 The Usefulness of Philosophy
- Unit 6 Sources of Knowledge and Criteria for Knowing

Module 2 History and Development of Philosophy

- Unit 1 The Ancient Age of Philosophy
- Unit 2 Medieval and Renaissance Age of Philosophy
- Unit 3 Modern Period of Philosophy
- Unit 4 Philosophical Movements In The Contemporary Period
- Unit 5 The Idea of African Philosophy

Module 3 Logic

- Unit 1 Definition and Scope of Logic
- Unit 2 Logic's Vocabulary I
- Unit 3 Logic's Vocabulary II
- Unit 4 Valid, Invalid, Deductive and Inductive Arguments
- Unit 5 Language and Its Functions

Module 4 Fallacies and Definitions

- Unit 1 Fallacies (Part One)
- Unit 2 Fallacies (Part Two)
- Unit 3 Definitions (Part One)
- Unit 4 Definitions (Part Two)
- Unit 5 Categorical Propositions Contents

Module 5 Argument Forms and Law of Thought

- Unit 1 Argument Forms
- Unit 2 Laws of Thought

References and Further Readings

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Presentation Schedule

The presentation schedule gives you the important dates for the completion of your computer-based tests, participation in forum discussions and participation at facilitation. Remember, you are to submit all your assignments at the appropriate time. You should guide against delays and plagiarisms in your work. Plagiarisms is a criminal offence in academics and is highly penalized.

Assessment

There are two main forms of assessments in this course that will be scored. The Continuous Assessments and the final examination. The continuous assessment shall be in three fold. **There will be two Computer Based Assessment. The computer-based assessments will be given in accordance to university academic calendar. The timing must be strictly**

adhered to. The Computer Based Assessments shall be scored a maximum of 10% each, while your participation in discussion forums and your portfolio presentation shall be scored maximum of 10% if you meet 75% participation. Therefore, the maximum score for continuous assessment shall be 30% which shall form part of the final grade.

The final examination for GST 203 will be maximum of two hours and it takes 70 percent of the total course grade. The examination will consist of 70 multiple choice questions that reflect cognitive reasoning.

Note: You will earn 10% score if you meet a minimum of 75% participation in the course forum discussions and in your portfolios otherwise you will lose the 10% in your total score. You will be required to upload your portfolio using Google Doc. What are you expected to do in your portfolio? Your portfolio should be note or jottings you made on each study unit and activities. This will include the time you spent on each unit or activity.

How to get the Most from the Course

To get the most in this course, you need to have a personal laptop and internet facility. This will give you adequate opportunity to learn anywhere you are in the world. Use the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) to guide your self-study in the course. At the end of every unit, examine yourself with the ILOs and see if you have achieved what you need to achieve.

Carefully work through each unit and make your notes. Join the online real time facilitation as scheduled. Where you missed the scheduled online real time facilitation, go through the recorded facilitation session at your own free time. Each real time facilitation session will be video recorded and posted on the platform.

In addition to the real time facilitation, watch the video and audio recorded summary in each unit. The video/audio summaries are directed to salient part in each unit. You can assess the audio and videos by clicking on the links in the text or through the course page.

Work through all self-assessment exercises. Finally, obey the rules in the class.

Facilitation

You will receive online facilitation. The facilitation is learner centred. The mode of facilitation shall be asynchronous and synchronous. For the asynchronous facilitation, your facilitator will:

- Present the theme for the week;
- Direct and summarise forum discussions;
- Coordinate activities in the platform;
- Score and grade activities when need be;
- Upload scores into the university recommended platform;

- Support you to learn. In this regard personal mails may be sent.
- Send you videos and audio lectures; and podcast.

For the synchronous:

- There will be eight hours of online real time contact in the course. This will be through video conferencing in the Learning Management System. The eight hours shall be of one-hour contact for eight times.
- At the end of each one-hour video conferencing, the video will be uploaded for view at your pace.
- The facilitator will concentrate on main themes that are must know in the course.
- The facilitator is to present the online real time video facilitation time table at the beginning of the course.
- The facilitator will take you through the course guide in the first lecture at the start date of facilitation.

Do not hesitate to contact your facilitator. Contact your facilitator if you:

- do not understand any part of the study units or the assignment.
- have difficulty with the self-assessment exercises
- have a question or problem with an assignment or with your tutor's comments on an assignment.

Also, use the contact provided for technical support.

Read all the comments and notes of your facilitator especially on your assignments, participate in the forums and discussions. This gives you opportunity to socialise with others in the programme. You can raise any problem encountered during your study. To gain the maximum benefit from course facilitation, prepare a list of questions before the discussion session. You will learn a lot from participating actively in the discussions.

Finally, respond to the questionnaire. This will help the university to know your areas of challenges and how to improve on them for the review of the course materials and lectures.

CONTENTS

Module 1	An Overview of Philosophy	9
Unit 1	Definition and Scope of Philosophy	9
Unit 2	Methods of Philosophy	16
Unit 3	Branches of Philosophy	21
Unit 4	Philosophy and other Disciplines Contents	28
Unit 5	The Usefulness of Philosophy	33
Unit 6	Sources of Knowledge and Criteria for Knowing	35
Module 2	History and Development of Philosophy	40
Unit 1	The Ancient Age of Philosophy	40
Unit 2	Medieval and Renaissance Age of Philosophy	48
Unit 3	Modern Period of Philosophy	52
Unit 4	Philosophical Movements in the Contemporary Period	59
Unit 5	The Idea of African Philosophy	65
Module 3	Logic	73
Unit 1	Definition and Scope of Logic	73
Unit 2	Logic's Vocabulary I	79
Unit 3	Logic's Vocabulary II	83
Unit 4	Valid, Invalid, Deductive and Inductive Arguments	88
Unit 5	Language and its Functions	94
Module 4	Fallacies and Definitions	100
Unit 1	Fallacies (Part One)	100
Unit 2	Fallacies (Part Two)	110
Unit 3	Definitions (Part One)	114
Unit 4	Definitions (Part Two)	119
Unit 5	Categorical Propositions Contents	126
Module 5	Argument Forms and Law of Thought	130
Unit 1	Argument Forms	130
Unit 2	Laws of Thought	134

Module 1 An Overview of Philosophy

Introduction

This module will introduce you to the nitty-gritty in philosophy. The module is divided into six units as follows:

Unit 1	Definition and Scope of Philosophy
Unit 2	Methods of Philosophy
Unit 3	Branches of Philosophy
Unit 4	Philosophy and other Disciplines Contents
Unit 5	The Usefulness of Philosophy
Unit 6	Sources of Knowledge and Criteria for Knowing

Unit 1 Definition and Scope of Philosophy

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 What is Philosophy?
 - 3.2 The Various Conceptions of Philosophy
 - 3.2.1 The Under-Labourer Conception of Philosophy
 - 3.2.2 The Master Scientist Conception
 - 3.2.3 Philosophy as Clarification of Concepts
 - 3.2.4 Philosophy as The Love of Wisdom
 - 3.2.5 Philosophy as The Search for Truth
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 References/Further Reading

1.0 Introduction

This study unit introduces you to the definition and scope of philosophy as a discipline. The unit will focus particularly on the controversial nature of the definition or conception of philosophy, it will consider both the layman and academics conceptions and understandings of philosophy.

2.0 Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- Define philosophy as a discipline;
- Discuss the views about the conception of philosophy

3.0 Main Content

3.1 What Is Philosophy?

You need to know from the outset that: The term “Philosophy” lends itself to many interpretations, thus the answer to this three-word question is not as simple as it looks or sounds. And, because of the critical nature of the discipline no one philosopher can define philosophy in a way that will be acceptable to every philosopher. Unlike other disciplines such as economics, history, political science, biology etc. where students can give a straight forward definition of their respective discipline, this is not possible with philosophy.

There is no such thing as the exact or univocal definition of philosophy. What we have seen from history is that each philosopher defines philosophy from his or her perspective or that each philosopher defines philosophy based on what he or she perceives as the central problem(s) or what we may call the subject matter of philosophy. Since there are many problems or issues that philosophy grapples with, there are many definitions of philosophy. This may be the reason why Bodunrin (1981: 12) advises a new comer into philosophy, who wishes to define or know the meaning of philosophy, to always wait for one as he would have to settle for one or achieve this by himself or herself latter in the cause of his or her studying philosophy. Sometimes, it is often argued that you define philosophy by doing philosophy. Although, this approach may not be correct, because, it is not in all cases that you need to practice something before you explain or understand it. For instance, someone interested in the definition of death does not necessarily need to die before he explains or understands it. If he is told that the only way to define death is to die first, he is likely to give up the attempt. Even if the best way to define philosophy is to expose you to the rigours of deep philosophizing, this remains partial. What you should always have in mind is that when a student of philosophy asks a question “what is Philosophy” he has started philosophizing and to philosophize is to wonder about life and about the fundamental issues that borders on human existence.

3.2 The Various Conceptions of Philosophy

The problem with a definition of philosophy also arises due to the various ‘conceptions’ and ‘misconceptions’, understanding and misunderstanding of philosophy. Because of this, the discipline has been given various meanings or definitions. This section focuses on the different conceptions or definitions of the discipline from various groups or individual’s perspective. This begins from professionals to the lay man and by ‘lay man’ I mean the average man in-the-street

3.2.1 Under- labourer Conception

This is in another word called the popular conception of philosophy. In this sense, the word philosophy is often used to characterize a person or a group of persons’ attitude to life. Attitude here means the general pattern or the