PHI 1101 **Introduction to Philosophy**

Course Code:

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course Description:***

The course introduces into the nature of philosophy which tries to explain the most fundamental concepts such as truth, knowledge, existence, action, person, mind, freedom, goodness, etc., the most important branches of philosophy are briefly considered, like metaphysics, epistemology and ethics. The relationship of philosophy to other disciplines economics, development” and similar fields of study is highlighted. Special consideration is given to African philosophy. The course keeps in constant touch with the life-experience of the students, illustrating the presence of philosophy in every area of learning and life, thus highlighting the relevance of philosophy. The general aim of the course is to help students think critically and systematically, enabling them to interpret reality meaningfully and objectively and to have a general view of philosophy in contemporary society and in Africa today.

***Course Objective :***

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the basic understanding of philosophy and how to study and do philosophy.

# ***Learning Objectives***

# Introduce students to the nature and scope of philosophical subject matter.

1. Expose students to the various levels of human knowledge and the limitations of each.
2. To introduce the students to the fundamental problems, about the human person and the universe.
3. Introduce students to an examination of fundamental beliefs about truth, knowledge, and values, God.
4. Initiates students to an attempt to reconcile the different views about science, morality and religion.
5. Introduce the nature of philosophical subject matter, and how this relates toother disciplines and areas of life, like economics, development, science, culture etc.

## Course outline

1. The meaning of philosophy

2. The relevance of philosophy

3. The divisions of philosophy

4. The levels of Human knowledge

5. The main philosophical problems

6. The General trends in traditional philosophy

7. General introduction of African philosophy

8. How to study of philosophy

***Methodology***

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; Lectures, individual presentations, textual criticism, guest lectures

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

# ***Reading List***

1. Foley, M.A and Mohan, W.J, (1987), *Philosophical Inquiry*, Alba House, 1987
2. Lea, F.A, (1962), *A Defence of Philosophy*, London: Erye and Spottiswoode, 1962
3. Maritain J, (1981), *An Introduction to Philosophy*, London: Sheed and Ward, 1981
4. Woodhouse, M.B, (1980), *A Preface to Philosophy*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.1980