

Federal State Budget-Financed Educational Institution of Higher Education

«Ulyanovsk State University»

Faculty of Humanities and Social Technology

The Department of Philosophy

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN PHILOSOPHY

Training manual for the students of the direction of training 31.05.01

“General Medicine”

Qualification (Degree): Specialist

Full-time training

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1. INDEPENDENT STUDY OF STUDENTS: THE MAIN PROVISIONS

Independent study is one of the types of learning activities of students. It is the main form of extracurricular activity which helps in the mastery of Philosophy. Moreover, it is also allowed to master the skills for independent study which is important element of the competencies of health professionals (see below). The students are given an opportunity to be more independent in the learning process than it is in the classes at the university. They are expected to develop their ability to plan and achieve the professional goals independently.

The independent study of students contributes to the implementation of **the objectives of the course:**

- to acquaint students with the origin and the development of philosophy, major philosophical approaches, areas of philosophical study, conceptions, concepts, key issues,
- to introduce students to the ideas of the major figures of philosophy,
- to provide students with fundamental principles and techniques of philosophical cognition;
- to facilitate development of the ability to logically formulate and reasonably defend own position,
- to develop students' critical thinking,
- to contribute to the broaden scientific and cultural outlook of the students,
- to introduce students to the philosophical issues connected with the areas of future professional activities.

The aim of independent study is to contribute to the building learners' **competences** assigned to the course such as:

GCC-1: the ability to abstract thinking, analysis, synthesis;

GCC-2: the ability to use the basics of philosophical knowledge to form the ideological position;

GCC-3: the ability to analyze the main stages and patterns of the historical development of society for the formation of citizenship;

GPC-5: the ability and willingness to analyze the results of their own activities to prevent professional errors.

The independent study aims at achieving the following **learning outcomes/competencies**:

- **to know** the major philosophers, areas and approaches, key issues, conceptions, and concepts of philosophy, the origin and development of philosophy and basic philosophical issues, the philosophical issues connected with the areas of future professional activities;

- **to be able to** think critically, formulate logically and defend reasonably own position, analyze and evaluate social phenomena and processes in a philosophical perspective, apply fundamental principles and techniques of philosophical cognition to professional issues;

- **to master** theoretical concepts and abstract categories, the skills for public representation of the own point of view, the skills in analysis and synthesis, the skills in reflection, analysis and assessment the results of human activities.

The stages of independent study are the following:

(1) to understand the learning assignments;

(2) to find necessary information for their performance based on the teacher's recommendations;

(3) to develop work plan;

(4) to complete the assignments;

(5) to carry-out self-monitoring.

According to course syllabus, independent study of students consists of preparation for lectures, tests, and the end-of-the course credit.

Test for assessment learners' progress is provided in syllabus.

Summative assessment is **a credit**.

2. THE PLACE OF INDEPENDENT STUDY IN THE COURSE

Philosophy course units feature formal lectures (36 hours) supported by independent study (36 hours).

Independent study is organized in accordance with the key questions, approaches, conceptions, concepts, and issues of Philosophy. It includes such types of learning activities as reading, analyzing, and making the notes of the assigned reading.

The following table provides information on the types of independent study in accordance with the main units and topics of the course in Philosophy, as well as information concerning assessment.

Table 1

**Independent study in accordance with the units/topics of the course in
Philosophy and types of assessment**

| Title of unit | Types of independent study | Hours | Types of assessment |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------------|
| Unit 1 Introduction to Philosophy Topic 1. What is philosophy? Topics 2. The major, categories and approaches of philosophical study | Reading, analyzing, making notes of the assigned reading | 4 | Test |
| Unit 2 History of Philosophy Topic 3. The famous presocratic philosophers and the main focus of their research Topic 4. Philosophy of Socrates Topic 5. Philosophy of Plato Topic 6. Philosophy of Aristotle Topic 7. Early Christian and Medieval philosophy Topic 8. Philosophy in the thirteenth century Topic 9. Oxford philosophers | Reading, analyzing, making notes of the assigned reading | 14 | Test |

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|---|---|-----------|-------------|
| <p>Topic 10. Renaissance philosophy Topic 11. Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz) vs Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume) Topic 12. The Critical Philosophy of Kant Test 13. The Philosophy of Enlightenment Topic 14. German Idealism and Materialism Topic 15. The Utilitarians Topic 16. The Features of the Philosophy in the end of nineteenth and twentieth Century</p> | | | |
| <p>Unit 3 The major issues of philosophical studies Topic 17. How Do We Know Anything? Other Minds Topic 18. Consciousness Topic 19. The Mind-Body Problem Topic 20. Free Will Topic 21. Right and Wrong Topic 22. Justice Topic 23. The Meaning of Life</p> | <p>Reading, analyzing, making notes of the assigned reading</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>Test</p> |
| <p>Unit 4. Philosophy of Medicine Topic 24. Core philosophical concepts in medicine and health care Topic 25. Patients and medical knowledge</p> | <p>Reading, analyzing, making notes of the assigned reading</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>Test</p> |

3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR CLASSES

The effectiveness of mastery of the course depends largely on the quality of independent study. In preparation for classes, students have to:

- read the lecture notes;
- study the required literature;
- do assignments;
- make a list of questions which they are having difficulties so to get answers in the classes;
- look for and study further information on the topics under consideration.

Independent study is aimed at systemizing and expansion of the knowledge which was obtained during lectures, as well as at preparing for classes, tests and end-of-the course credit. Students are required to read, analyze the readings and make notes on the main topics of the course in a systematic manner.

Independent study is based on the use of traditional and e-learning techniques such as printed and electronic training manuals, journals, online resources, consultations via messengers, and so on.

For each topics of the course (Table 1), students do assignment at home – find answers to the questions for independent study which are listed below (section 4). For that they need to consider relevant information which they can find in the required and extension literature, training manuals in Philosophy, as well as professional databases, referral systems and Internet sources (section 5). Examples of test questions for conducting formative assessment you can find in the Set of Assessment Instruments.

4. THE QUESTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

UNIT 1. THE INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Topic 1. What is philosophy?

- What are different approaches to definition of Philosophy?
- Why study philosophy?
- What are philosophers? What do they do?
- The limits of what philosophy can do.

Topics 2. The major areas, categories and approaches of philosophical study

- What is Metaphysics? Examples of the questions that metaphysics tackles.
- What is epistemology? Typical questions of concern in epistemology.
- Ethics as the study of the nature of the good and how humans should live.

Questions that ethicists attempt.

- Logic as the study of arguments and the relationship between ideas. The key questions of logic.
- The place of history of philosophy in contemporary philosophical studies.
- “Philosophy of...”. Philosophical questions and other disciplines.

UNIT 2. HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

Topic 3. The famous Presocratic philosophers and the main focus of their research

- Who are Presocratic philosophers?
- Ionian Philosophers (640-475 BCE). Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Heraclitus and others.
- Pythagoreans (582-5th century BCE). Philosophy of Pythagoras and his followers.
- Eleatic Philosophers (570-5th century BCE). Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno of Elea and others.
- Atomists (5th century BCE). Leucippus, Democritus and others.

- Older sophists (5th century BCE – 375 BCE). Protagoras, Hippias and others.

Topic 4. Philosophy of Socrates

- Socrates (470–399 BC) as classical Greek (Athenian) philosopher, one of the founders of Western philosophy and Western ethical tradition of thought.
- The Dialogues of Plato. The Phaedo. The Republic. The Symposium.
- The steps of the Socratic Method.

Topic 5. Philosophy of Plato

- Plato's ideas on Politics, Aesthetics, Cosmology, and Epistemology as the basis of much Western Philosophy.
- The theory of Forms/Ideas.
- The theory of Platonic Realism/Idealism.
- Plato's Allegory of the cave, "The Republic".

Topic 6. Philosophy of Aristotle

- The role of Aristotle in constitution of the first comprehensive system of Western philosophy.
- Main areas of contribution of Aristotle to philosophy.
- Greek philosophy after Aristotle. Epicureanism. Stoicism. Scepticism. Christianity and Gnosticism. Neo-Platonism.

Topic 7. Early Christian and Medieval philosophy

- Arianism and Orthodoxy. The Theology of Incarnation.
- Augustine's influence on Christian thought.
- Boethius: classical philosophy and the technical philosophy of the medieval schools.
- "The Manufacture of the Universe" of Philoponus.
- John Scotus Eriugena vs Greek abbot Theodore.
- Alkindi's commentary on Aristotle's De Anima.
- Avicenna's metaphysical system.
- Saint Anselm's arguments for the existence of God.
- Abelard's contribution to Philosophy of language, Logic, and Ethics.

- Averroes' commentaries on Aristotle.

Topic 8. Philosophy in the thirteenth century

- Saint Bonaventure. The Journey of the Mind to God.
- Medieval logicians' treatment of terms. The development of modal logic.
- Aquinas' Life and Works.

Topic 9. Oxford philosophers

- The Fourteenth-Century University. Franciscans and Oxford University.
- Duns Scotus' philosophy.
- Ockham's Logic of Language. Nominalism of Ockham's view of universals. 'Ockham's Razor'.

Topic 10. Renaissance philosophy

- Renaissance Platonism.
- Cardinal Bessarion about the relationship of Aristotle to Christian teaching.
- Ficino's group of Florentine Platonists and Pico della Mirandola.
- Machiavelli's The Prince. The problem of faith.
- Pomponazzi's on the Immortality of the Soul.
- More's Utopia.
- Post-Reformation Philosophy. Formal logic, skepticism, and free-will (Ramus, Montaigne, Suarez, Molina).
- The separation between the philosophy of nature and the science of physics. Bruno and Galileo.
- Philosophy of Bacon.

Topic 11. Rationalism (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz) vs Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume)

- Rationalism as the view that regards reason as the chief source and test of knowledge.
- Empiricism as the theory based on the claim that experience is the source of knowledge.

- Descartes's method of doubt. Dualistic conception of reality (Cartesian dualism).
- Spinoza's philosophy. Metaphysics: substance, attribute, modes. Ethical philosophy: a kind of subjectivist about moral values. Three kinds of knowledge.
- Leibniz' philosophy. Truth of reason and truth of facts. The monads and substances. Leibniz's law.
- The nature, scope, and limits of knowledge in the philosophy of Locke.
- The main areas of Berkeley's philosophical interests.
- Hume's skeptical approach to a range of philosophical subjects.

Topic 12. The Critical Philosophy of Kant

- Kant's Copernican revolution.
- The epistemology of transcendental idealism.
- The moral philosophy.

Topic 13. The Philosophy of Enlightenment

- Voltaire's philosophical views.
- "The Social Contract" of Rousseau.
- Revolution and Romanticism.

Topic 14. German Idealism and Materialism

- Two main point of view in philosophy - materialism and idealism.
- German idealism of Kant, Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel.
- Absolute idealism of Hegel.
- Marx and the Young Hegelians.

Topic 15. The Utilitarians

- Bentham: Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation.
- Mill's utilitarianism. Distinction between the quality of pleasures. Support of freedom of expression.

Topic 16. The Features of the Philosophy in the end of nineteenth and twentieth Century

- Analytic philosophy.
- The philosophy of Wittgenstein.

- Key themes that existentialist thinkers address.
- Husserl's conception on the structure of consciousness.
- Heidegger's concept of being itself.

UNIT 3. THE MAJOR ISSUES OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

Topic 17. How Do We Know Anything? Other Minds

- Solipsism as an epistemological position.
- Skepticism in epistemology.
- Relativism as an epistemological position.
- The problem of other minds.

Topic 18. Consciousness

- General definition of consciousness.
- Issues of the philosophy of consciousness.
- Consciousness as a topic of interdisciplinary research in cognitive science.
- Types of consciousness (Block, Lycan, and others).
- The hard (subjective experience) and the easy (neural correlates of consciousness) problems of consciousness (Chalmers).

Topic 19. The Mind-Body Problem

- Philosophy of Mind the studies the ontology, nature, and relationship of the mind to the body.
- The mind-body problem.
- Two basic approaches to the mind-body problem: Dualism and Physicalism.

Topic 20. Free Will

- What is the free will problem?
- Freedom: two uses of the term (political liberty, action control).
- Will and free will.
- Views on the problem of free will. Hard (causal) determinism. Hard indeterminism. Compatibilism (soft determinism). Libertarianism.

Topic 21. Right and Wrong

- Moral Philosophy/Ethics, its branches. Meta-ethics. Normative ethics. Applied ethics.

- Duty-based theory (Deontological Ethics).
- Consequentialism as an ethical doctrine.
- Virtue theory as an ethical doctrine.

Topic 22. Justice

- The philosophical aspects of the problem of justice.

- Social inequality and social injustice: the moral dilemmas.

- Wrong causes of inequality. Right methods of interfering with the inequality.

Topic 23. The Meaning of Life

- The death and the matters of what we do. The problem of immortality.

- The possibility that your life is meaningless vs the possibility that your life has a larger meaning.

- The problems with the appealing to a religious meaning to life.

- Matter to ourselves from the inside and the outside.

UNIT 4. PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE

Topic 24. Core philosophical concepts in medicine and health care

- Metaphysical, epistemological, and other philosophical issues in medicine and health care.

- Normality as a convention and scientific fact.

- The concepts of positive health, disease, mental disorder, curing and healing, illness experience, nursing, disability, death, subjective and objective accounts of well-being, goals of medicine and others.

Topic 25. Patients and medical knowledge

- Holism and reductionism in health care.

- Medicine as art and science.

- Basic approaches to medicine (biological reductionism, biopsychosocial model, humanist).

5. INFORMATION SUPPORT OF THE COURSE

To deal with aforementioned assignments (section 4) for independent study, students are expected to start from the required literature:

- Christian, A., Hommen, D., Retzlaff N., Schurz G. Philosophy of Science. Springer, Cham, 2018. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-72577-2>
- Schramme, T. and Edwards, S. Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine. Springer, Dordrecht, 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-017-8688-1>

Then, they should move to the supplementary literature:

- Backström, J., Nykänen, H., Toivakainen, N., Wallgren T. Moral Foundations of Philosophy of Mind. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-18492-6>
- Johansson, L-G. Philosophy of Science for Scientists. Springer, Cham, 2016. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-26551-3>
- Romero, G.E. Scientific Philosophy. Springer, Cham, 2018. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-97631-0>
- Riesch, H., Emmerich, N., and Wainwright, S. Philosophies and Sociologies of Bioethics. Springer, Cham, 2018. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92738-1>
- Smart, B. Concepts and Causes in the Philosophy of Disease. Palgrave Pivot, London, 2016. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137552921>

The students are also expected to look for relevant information from such professional datasets, referral systems and Internet-sources as:

- ЭБС "Консультант студента"
- Springer
- Elsevier
- Willey
- <https://plato.stanford.edu> – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

- <https://www.rep.routledge.com> – The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- <https://www.iep.utm.edu> –The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- <http://consc.net> – Philosophy of Mind (D.Chalmers)

Finally, the students should use the following training manual as a source of basic information on the course in Philosophy:

- Philosophy: manual/К.А. Темиргалiev, М.У. Темирbekova - М.: Литтерра, 2016. - 128 с. Текст: электронный // ЭБС "Консультант студента": [сайт]. – URL:<http://www.studentlibrary.ru/book/ISBN9785423502119.html>