



Philosophy Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL1301-7;1301-8

CRN's: 10326, 10327 8-Week

Spring 2017, Online (3 Credit Hours)

HCC – All

Instructor: Danny Brown

Learning Web Page: HCC Eagle
Online2/CANVAS

Email: danny.brown@hccs.edu *[Please remember to put CRN Number (class number) in the subject line of your email.]*

Phone: 281-484-1900 x3847

Course Description:

This course is a study of the major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications (Texas ACGM). It provides a theoretically diverse introduction to the study of ideas, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena, particularly in the areas of knowledge, ethics, and religion (HCC Course Catalogue). This course stresses the HCC Core Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

PREREQUISITE(S):

- ENGL 1301 or higher

HCC CORE CURRICULUM:

This course satisfies the **Philosophy, Language, and Culture** component area or the **Component Area Option** in the HCC Core Curriculum. If you are not sure that you need this course to graduate, please consult with your advisor.

Course Goals:

This course is a theoretically diverse introduction to the study of ideas, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Read, analyze,** and **critique** philosophical texts.
2. **Demonstrate knowledge** of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.

3. **Present** logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. **Demonstrate critical thinking skills** in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. **Evaluate** the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

Learning Objectives:

This course fulfills a philosophy requirement for many academic and professional 4-year programs as well as the HCC Philosophy AA-degree plan. It also satisfies the HCC Core Curriculum requirement for Philosophy, Language, and Culture OR the Content Area Option. In keeping with the guidelines of the Texas Higher Education Curriculum Board, this course will provide a solid foundation in the following Core Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

NOTICE: Students who have questions about whether their enrollment in this course will satisfy their degree objectives should immediately see an HCC academic advisor who can review their academic degree plans.

Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Eagle Online/CANVAS*. The *Eagle Online* login page is:

Eagle Online Login: <https://hccs.instructure.com> (new Canvas system)

Your Eagle Online username is the same as your HCC Eagle ID (or User ID) which is used for Online Registration (for example: W0034567). Your password is the same password you use to log in to PeopleSoft, HCC Webmail, and Active Directory (computer terminal login). For any questions about your Eagle ID or password, please go check online [here](#).

IMPORTANT: Eagle Online/CANVAS works best with the latest version of Google Chrome or Firefox instead of Internet Explorer. Download firefox free, [here](#). Or Google Chrome, [here](#). (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox and/or Google Chrome in your applications.)

Required Texts:

- **Plato: Five Dialogues//Grube//** Hackett Publishing//2nd Edition, 2002 ISBN 978-0-87220-633-5
- **Discourse On Method and Meditations On First Philosophy//** Descartes, Rene//Hackett Publishing 4th Edition, 1999//ISBN 0-87220-4200
- **Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period//** Atherton, Katherine, ed. Hackett Publishing, 1994// ISBN 0-87220-259-3
- **Early Buddhist Discourses//** Holder, John J.// Hackett, 2006//ISBN 0-87220-792-7
- **Existentialism and Human Emotions//** Sartre, Jean-Paul//Carol Publishing Group, 1984//ISBN 0806509023

Course Calendar:

Course Calendar with Due Dates for Assignments

LECTURE NOTES ARE POSTED IN EACH SECTION LEARNING MODULE.

Students: The Distance Education system automatically locks you out of making submissions for Discussion Boards and Assignments after 11:55 P.M. on the due dates. Discipline yourselves to submit your material before the deadline. Otherwise your score will be zero for the assignment.

All assignments due by Wednesday night at 11:55 pm.

Be diligent: This is a full 16 week course that is being condensed to only 8 weeks!

WEEK ONE & TWO (Jan. 17-25) (Reminder: 9 days to finish 2 Discussion Board posts and 1 Short Essay: Book(s) not needed for first 2 week assignments.)

Introduction to Philosophy: Critical Thinking

Read over the syllabus and be VERY FAMILIAR with the policy for ASSIGNMENTS and PLAGIARISM, as well as the COURSE CALENDAR. Does Professor Brown accept late entries? What happens if I cut and paste from the Internet for my assignments?

What if I cannot finish an assignment? All of these questions are answered in the syllabus. Go over it. There will be questions on the first practice test over the material provided in the syllabus. **Books not needed to finish Week One and Two's assignments.**

- **Get Required Texts** for this course now.
- **Read Power Point:** Introduction to Philosophy: DE (slides 1-47)
- ✓ **Take Practice Test:** This will acclimate you to DE test taking. Questions are over material in the syllabus. Practice Test Grade not factored in Final Semester Grade. This is for your own benefit. Use it. Learn the Process.
- ✓ **Discussion Board Post #1:** Mandatory Introductions *due by 11:55 p.m. on Jan. 25th.*
- ✓ **Discussion Board Post #2:** Plagiarism *due by 11:55 p.m. on Jan. 25th.*
- ✓ **Short Essay #1:** *Logical Fallacies due by 11:55 p.m. on Jan. 25th.*

Essay #1: Write of a time that someone tried to persuade you by using one of the 17 logical fallacies described in your first power point? Which of the logical fallacies were they using trying to persuade you? What was the topic? Did it work? (Minimum 3 paragraphs)

WEEK THREE (Jan. 26-Feb. 1)

Socrates and The Examined Life

- **Read Power Point:** Socrates and The Examined Life (slides 1-22)
- ✓ **Discussion Board Post #3** *due by 11:55 p.m. on Feb. 1st.*

- **Read Handout:** "Plato's Allegory of the Cave" (pgs. 1-5)
- **Read Power Point:** Plato (slides 1-42)
- ✓ **Quiz #1:** Over Plato Power Points and Reading, Timed one hour, one attempt. If you leave browser will not be let back into quiz questions. *Due by 11:55 pm. on Feb. 1st.*

WEEK FOUR & WEEK FIVE (Feb. 2-15)

Read Required Text. Rene' Descartes: *Discourse on Method and Meditations of First Philosophy* Editor's Preface (vii-ix) & Discourse on Method, and Part 1-3 (pgs. 1-18)

- **Reading:** *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditations: pgs.58-103)
 - **Read Power Point:** Descartes: Intro and Discourse in Method: PP(slides 1-43)
Meditations One and Two Power Point (slides 1-19)
Meditations Three and Four: Power Point (slides 1-17)
Meditations Five and Six: Power Point (slides 1-17)
- ✓ **Paper due by 11:55 p.m. on Feb. 15th.**

Paper Assignment

This is to be a minimum **3 Full Pages** worth of work. No late papers accepted. Cite all Sources! **Plagiarism will automatically receive a zero for this assignment.** Read Syllabus on Paper requirements. First: Analyze and evaluate Descartes' two proofs of God's existence. How are they different? Is one more convincing than the other? And secondly: How does Descartes explain how we humans make mistakes (errors)? Do not just state that a perfect creator made imperfect humans. That is **not** his answer. Descartes has several ideas on why we make mistakes and how we go wrong. Are Descartes' arguments convincing to you? Why or why not? (You may resubmit your paper up until due date. Late papers will not be accepted.)

WEEK SIX (Feb. 16-22) [Reminder: Feb. 21st at 4:30 pm, last day to drop]

Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period: Margaret Atherton

- **Reading:** *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, "Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia", (pgs. 9-21)
 - **Read Power Point:** Dualism (slides 1-27)
- ✓ **Short Essay # 2: Princess Elisabeth due by 11:55 p.m. on Feb. 22nd.**

Essay #2: Write a three or four paragraph essay answering the topic given. The essays will be completed and submitted by the time specified on the course calendar. What is Elisabeth asking Descartes to clarify? What was his answer from your reading? Do you believe that Descartes gave an adequate answer? Explain, in your opinion, why or why not?

WEEK SEVEN (Feb. 22-March 1)

Early Buddhist Discourses: Holder, John J.

- **Reading:** *Early Buddhist Discourses*, "The Greater Discourse on Cause," (pgs. 26-41)
- ✓ **Discussion Board Post #4 due by 11:55 p.m. on March 1st.**

WEEK EIGHT (March 2-8)

Existentialism and Human Emotions: Sartre, Jean-Paul

- **Reading:** *Existentialism and Human Emotions*, "Existentialism," (pgs. 9-51)
- ✓ **Discussion Board Post #5 due by 11:55 p.m. Oct.12.**
✓ **Final Examination due by 11:55 p.m. March 8th.**

The final exam consists of 50 questions (4pts each) totaling 200pts. Types of questions are true/false and multiple-choice. Most if not all the questions come from the PowerPoints provided throughout this semester. You have only one attempt to take the test, do not leave browser otherwise you will be kicked off. You will have a 2 hour window to finish the exam once you have opened the exam. Good luck.

Final examination is cumulative on philosophers and basic ideas.

Instructional Methods: Text Reading, PowerPoint Presentations, Unit Quizzes, Papers, Essays, Discussion Board Postings and Final Exams.

Student Assignments: Read a variety of philosophical material, complete quizzes and exams, submit 1 major paper, Essays, and participate on Discussion Board.

Discussion Board: (5 x 40pts = 200) Each student is required to participate in public discussion forums. Discussion satisfies the intellectual competencies of reading, writing, critical thinking, and computer literacy. Discussion is to be found under the discussion tools section of the Blackboard course. The discussion section is divided into topics. Under each topic the instructor will initiate the discussion by posing a given philosophical question. Student responses to the discussions should be a minimum of one paragraph **(minimum of 5 or more coherent sentences on the same topic)**. Paragraphs should end with a question. Students should read and post to the discussions according to the reading schedule. *Once closed the discussions will not be reopened and no late discussion postings are accepted.* **Use your own words. If you copy and paste from the internet (plagiarize) you will be expelled from the class.** Students should respond to follow up questions posted. Everyone should post at least once during the discussion. These Discussion Board topics will be utilized as a public learning forum for the entire DE class. Ask pertinent questions about the subject at hand. The instructor may guide the discussion with his own threads. My threads will be posted in capital letters. It does not indicate that he is yelling, it is just a good way of distinguishing his comments from the students. Public discussions make up 20% of the final grade. Public discussions will be graded once they have closed. All Points will be awarded for completed topics. Once graded, the student's score can be found under the My Grades section of EO/CANVAS. Discussion Boards will also be checked for plagiarized materials. Do not plagiarize, use your own words.

Quiz: (1 x 100pts = 100) The quizzes are due in EO2 by 11:55 P.M. on the date that is posted in the syllabus. Important! If you wait until the last day (the due date: Wednesday) to take the quizzes, **I will not re-set the quizzes for you.** NO EXCEPTIONS. Take quizzes before last due date in case of computer problems.

Essays: (2 x 150pts = 300) Write a **minimum of three full paragraphs** in your essay answering the topic given. The essays will be completed and submitted by the time specified on the course

calendar. Please note, these examinations are essays in answer to a specific question that seeks your understanding of the course content. These essays are not to be construed as being research papers and all questions are to be addressed as asked. The grading of essays follows established standards of critical thinking and philosophical argumentation. **You will be submitting your essays through Eagle Online/CANVAS which will forward it to turnitin.com. If you feel that your essay may not have submitted properly to turnitin.com you may also email me your essay (attached) by the due date and I will accept your submission.**

Plagiarism will result in zero for the assignment.

Paper: (1 x 200 pts. = 200) The paper is due to Eagle Online (turnitin.submission) by 11:55 P.M. on the date that is posted in the syllabus. These assignments should contain **normal margins, New Times Roman, 12 point font, double spaced. Minimum two sources.** Points taken off if do not follow previous sentence. The papers are to be at least the minimum of **3 FULL** pages worth of work. (Not including citation page) Minimum 2 Sources (text, internet, books, notes, etc.) All sources require full citations. All references to texts and other copyrighted sources are to follow MLA style guides, including a “Work’s Cited” page. Links to these online style-guides can be found in the “Student Resources” folder on your Eagle Online Homepage. Important: **I will be processing your papers ALL of your papers through turnitin.com.** Turnitin.com does reference previously turned in papers from your fellow students! If you cite any source it must be in quotations **and** referenced on your resource page. **If not, you will receive a zero for the assignment.** Please do not make this mistake.

Quick Outline of Paper requirements:

- 3-5 Pages. This means the minimum of **3 full** pages worth of work, not including citation page. Minimum 2 Sources (text, internet, books, etc.)
- If you feel that you are having trouble uploading your paper through Eagle online/turnitin.com, email me your paper attached to danny.brown@hccs.edu before the due date and I will accept the submission. Plagiarism will result in zero for the assignment. You may resubmit re-writes to turn it in at any time before due date.
- Cite all sources
- Do not attach any paper in wps. Format I will not be able to open it. If you do I will drop your paper assignment one letter grade. Students in the past have done this to buy themselves more time. Just do not do it.

Cumulative Final Examination: (1 x 200 pts. = 200)

Student Assessments:

➤ Discussion Board Postings	5 x 40pts = 200
➤ 1 Quiz	1 x 100pts = 100
➤ 2 Short Essays	2 x 150pts = 300
➤ 1 Paper	1 x 200pts = 200
➤ 1 Final Exam	<u>1 x 200pts = 200</u>
➤ Total points	1000pts

HCC Grading Scale:

A = 900 – 1000

B = 800 – 899

C = 700 – 799

D = 600 – 699

F = 599 and below

FINAL GRADE OF FX: Students who stop attending class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of "FX" at the end of the semester. Students who stop attending classes will receive a grade of "FX", compared to an earned grade of "F" which is due to poor performance. Logging into a DE course without active participation is seen as non-attending. Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class.

Students who receive financial aid but fail to attend class will be reported to the Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of "FX" is treated exactly the same as a grade of "F" in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress. To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

Late policy:

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

There will be no extension of due dates and/or make-ups for Online Requirements. Except for a medical excuse, there is no exemption from these rules. Friendly reminder, medical excuses will be fact checked.

*Philosophy Tutoring is available at <http://hccs.askonline.net/> **Please use it if you need it !!***

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism:

ALL SOURCES MUST BE CITED IN THIS CLASS AND YOUR PAPERS MAY NOT BE TAKEN WORD FOR WORD (CUT AND PASTED) FROM INTERNET SITES. THIS **WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.** I DO RUN ALL ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH A PLAGIARISM WEBSITE CHECKER.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policy:

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences will be maintained throughout the semester. NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to drop, or officially withdraw from this course. Your instructor will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student. Additionally, system-wide rules affect withdrawals:

- (1) Students who repeat a course for a third, or more times, may face a significant tuition/fee increase at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities.

- (2) The Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.

No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw", which for Spring 2017 is at 4:30 PM. After that date and time, a student can only be given a grade earned, or an "I" for incomplete. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following long semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F". Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript.

Students with Disabilities:

Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services.

If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision, physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodations, please contact the appropriate Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your Instructor's receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be requested at any time during the semester, however if an accommodation letter is provided to the Instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the Instructor to implement the accommodations.

Ability Service Contact Information

Central College

713.718.6164

Coleman College

713-718-7376

Northeast College

713-718-8322

Northwest College

713-718-5422

713-718-5408

Southeast College

713-718-7144

Southwest College

713-718-5910

Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

Interpreting and CART services

713-718-6333

The HCC Accessibility website is located at the following url: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/accessibility/>. You will find information about the types of assistance offered to students with special instructional needs on that web page. You will also find contact information for your college's ADA compliance and accessibility office. For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the ADA counselor at your college campus. You can find a list of counselors [here](#).

EGLS3 – Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System:

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

QUICK REFERENCE:

1. When you e-mail me, state which specific DE course you are enrolled in.
2. I do not give extra credit assignments.
3. All due dates are due on Wednesday by 11:55 pm.
4. I do not accept late assignments.
5. All Discussion Board Posts have to be at LEAST 5 sentences long.
6. All Essays must be a minimum of 3 paragraphs long.
7. Paper has to be at LEAST **3 full pages** worth of work. Not including citation page. Minimum 2 Sources (text, internet, books, etc.)
8. If you feel that your essay/paper may not have submitted properly to turnitin.com you may also email me your essay/paper (attached) by the due date and I will accept your submission.
9. If you wait until the last day (the due date: Wednesday) to take the exams, I will not re-set the test for you. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Take tests before last due date in case of computer problems.
10. If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for the assignment.
11. Last day to drop is Feb. 21st.