Course Description:
This is a systemic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value (Texas ACGM). This course provides a practical, community-minded introduction to questions of character and human excellence in a multi-cultural, global environment. Traditional and contemporary views concerning the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom serve as points of departure for this largely thematic inquiry into right conduct and ways of thinking that leads to that conduct (HCC Catalogue). This course stresses the HCC CORE Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal 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:
Particular emphasis is placed on the scope and problems of sound reasoning and decision-making and may include correlative inquiries into current social, workforce, and professional moral issues.
Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Read, analyze, and critique** philosophical texts.

2. **Define** and **appropriately use** important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.

3. **Demonstrate knowledge** of major arguments and problems in ethics.

4. **Present** and **discuss** well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.

5. **Apply** ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.

6. **Apply** course material to various aspects of life.

7. **Discuss** ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Learning Objectives:

1.1 **Acquire** a broad familiarity with the names of major thinkers, the schools they represent, geographical location, and historical periods.

1.2 **Learn** historically significant questions of ethics, definitions of special terms, and concepts of ethics and ethical decision-making.

2.1 **Cultivate** reading comprehension of writings specific to ethics and cultivation of character.

2.2 **Distinguish** various approaches to ethics, including conceptual analysis and practical bases for ethical decision-making.

3.1 **Articulate** the relevance of ethics and questioning about ethics to everyday life.

3.2 **Consider** how ethics may or may not apply to differing ways of thinking and cultural influences.

4.1 **Inventory, Summarize, and Assess** correlative questions, concepts, and schools of thought found in the history of ethics, both personal and professional.

5.1 **Create and cultivate** alternative ethical positions on presented course content.

5.2 **Develop coherent arguments** for chosen positions, bringing to bear the rules of logic, written expression and disciplined thinking.

5.3 **Critique** chosen positions and adequately. **Defend** against possible objections, both theoretical and applied.
Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

This is a distance education course that uses Eagle Online 2. The Eagle Online login page is:

https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php

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 works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, here. (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)

Adopted/Required Texts:


Course Calendar:

(The instructor reserves the right to rearrange and possibly change the material.)

1. Week 1- Meno by Plato: Introduction
2. Week 2-Meno by Plato: Introduction to Virtue Ethics
3. Week 3- Meno by Plato: Objective Realism and Conclusions
4. Week 4-The Ethics of Care by Noddings, part I-Why Care about Caring? pp. 7-26
5. Week 5- The Ethics of Care by Noddings, part II-An Ethic of Caring, pp. 79-98
6. Week 6- Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by I. Kant: Introduction: Transition from common rational to philosophic moral cognition. (Section I)
7. Week 7- Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by I. Kant: Transition from popular moral philosophy to metaphysics of morals. (Section II-a)
8. Week 8- Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by I. Kant: Transition from popular moral philosophy to metaphysics of morals. (Section II-b)
9. Week 9- Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by I. Kant: Transition from metaphysics of morals to the critique of pure rational reason. (Section III)
11. Week 11 - The Classical Utilitarians: Bentham and Mill (selections.2)
12. Week 12 - Selected Political Writings by M. Gandhi (Satyagraha.1)
13. Week 13 - Selected Political Writings by M. Gandhi (Swaraj.2)
14. Week 14 - Gandhi and the Idea of Nonviolence (selected online articles.1)
15. Week 15 - Gandhi and the Idea of Nonviolence (selected online articles.2)

**Assessment will consist of the choices of:**

1. **Daily Quizzes, or**
   Exams: Multiple Choice, True-False/Matching/Fill-in, or
   Short Answer Essays to Questions of Fact, or Oral Exams on same questions.

2. **Journal Summaries, or**
   Blogs, or
   Assigned Public Discussion Topics, or
   Interpretive Essays. All choices to be evaluated with SLO-specific *standard form* rubric.

3. **Journal Summaries, or**
   Blogs, or
   Assigned Public Discussion Topics, or
   Interpretive Essays. All choices to be evaluated with SLO-specific *standard form* rubric.

4. **Short Answer Essays or assigned Project evaluated with SLO-specific *standard form* rubric.**

5. **Major Essay, or Term Paper evaluated with SLO-specific *standard form* rubric.**

**Grading Policy:**

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 900. The term grade legend follows:

- **A** = 90% to 100% (810 to 900 points) 4 points per semester hour
- **B** = 80% to 89.9% (720 to 809 points) 3 points per semester hour
- **C** = 70% to 79.9% (630 to 719 points) 2 points per semester hour
- **D** = 60% to 69.9% (540 to 629 points) 1 point per semester hour
- **F** = 0% to 59.9% (000 to 539 points) 0 points per semester hour
- **FX** (Failure due to non-attendance) 0 points per semester hour
- **IP** (In Progress) 0 points per semester hour
- **W** (Withdrawn) 0 points per semester hour
- **I** (Incomplete) 0 points per semester hour

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IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses.

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.

Grading Components and Weights:

A. Major Assignments Evaluated by a Grade

1. The Exam I - 20% of your final grade.
This online test will consist of Multiple-Choice and Fill-in- the Blank Questions. It will be based on the readings, modules, discussions, and study questions. In order to prepare for the exam, the course participants should analyze the “Final Exam Study Questions” located in the Blackboard learning module. Critical thinking is required. (LEARNING OUTCOME 1)

2. The Midterm Exam - 15% of your final grade.
The test will have a form of Multiple-Choice Exam Questions related to Kant’s ethics. It will be based on the Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by Kant and the class discussions linked to Kant. Critical thinking is required during the exam. (LEARNING OUTCOME 3)

3. The Ethical Interview Paper- 20% of your final grade.
The paper should be about four pages in length (500-750 words). The work is designed as a major essay (Term Paper) which demonstrates the analytic/synthetic and interpretative approach to Ethics. The paper should be based on the class material which should be analyzed comprehensively. Also, it should be based on research which should support ethical issues of the interview. Research must be demonstrated in the paper by providing relevant terms and references. The paper should consist of a short ethical interview based either on a variant A or B. A) Interview anyone who earns money, summarize his/her business practices and beliefs (his/her “business ethics”), and comprehensively comment on it using ethical theories and terms learned in the class. B) Interview anyone who has social obligations and commitments of a non-business nature (e.g., anyone who has family, friends, romantic partner(s), civic, or church connections, etc.), summarize his/her ethical principles, and link to biography. Then, analyze the material philosophically by applying a comprehensive realm of ethical theories, ideas and terms provided by class readings and
lectures. Please focus on one specific area only (e.g., “Rules of a Good Doctor/Caregiver,” or “Principles of a Church Member”) chosen either from a variant A or B but not both. All interviews must be organized in a form of an essay. They should be submitted via Moodle. We do not accept papers sent via e-mail. Please apply MLA citation rules to your paper. Critical thinking and originality are required. (LEARNING OUTCOME 4 and 5)

4. Assigned Discussion Topics (with elements of blogs and journal summaries)
15% of your final grade.
I) Part of your grades comes from online participation. If you are not present online, you cannot participate. You will be graded on the amount of material you know, the quality of your contribution to the discussion activities and your online attendance. Online discussions and chatting in the chat rooms (if possible) are not only encouraged, but requested. II) Each student is asked to post one (1) discussion topic every week. Also, each student is asked to analyze and follow one (1) discussion topic provided by other students. Thus, each student needs to post two (2) discussion entries weekly. III) The grade from discussions will be given at the end of the semester. IV) For your convenience, the DE discussion week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday at 11:55 PM. (LEARNING OUTCOME 2)

5. The Final Exam- 30% of your final grade.
The exam will be conducted online, and it will have a comprehensive character. The exam will be related to readings, modules, discussions, and study questions, and it will have a form of Multiple Choice (True-False) answers. Only illness or emergency justifies an absence during the final exam. In case of sickness a doctor’s certificate is required. Critical thinking and intellectual independence are required during the exam. Thus, do not memorize the material, but try to understand it. Please feel free to contact the instructor if you have a problem with the material. It is always a pleasure to help out. (LEARNING OUTCOME 1)

B. Minor Assignments Evaluated by Points

1. Every week students might be given a short quiz based on readings and class activities. Quizzes will be evaluated by giving a certain number of points. All points will be converted to a percentage before the end of the class. This percentage will create extra credit for each student and will be added to the final grade after the last exam. For instance, let us imagine that John Doe’s grade is 75% after the final exam. However, assume he also has 5% extra credit from the assignments. Then, the instructor will add 5% to his 75%, and John’s final grade will be 80%.

2. The purpose of minor assignments is to enhance class participation. Students might elect to work on all major assignments described in the syllabus in advance to meet deadlines. Nevertheless, students will also need to visit the online classroom at least twice each week to learn about current class objectives. In terms of precision, philosophy is close to
mathematics, but in philosophy not everything can be organized in a purely mathematical way. In order to make our ethical knowledge more concrete, we need to analyze current readings. The assignments will be creative, fun, and will measure each student’s proficiency in Ethics. Thus, be sure to check your e-mail and calendar every week.

3. Please note that the grading of exams follows established standards of critical thinking and philosophical argumentation. All references to texts and other copyrighted sources have to follow MLA, APS, or APA style guides, including “Works Cited” page. Plagiarism on either work will result in a “0” for the assignment; plagiarized assignments MUST be rewritten to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Late policy:

We do not accept late works or papers. In case of emergency, however, immediate help will be given to students. Please contact your instructor for details.

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

Academic Honesty:

The pressure to earn high grades and belief that a good end can justify any means whatsoever leads many students to try cutting corners by resorting to less than honest methods. Do yourself a favor by avoiding that trap. The HCC Student Handbook lists cheating, plagiarism, and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines plagiarism as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit." It defines collusion as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit." Work submitted for this course that is determined to be the result of either cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will earn a "0" for that assignment, and may cause the student to receive either an "F", or “I” in the course depending on your professor’s stated requirements for the assignment and the weight it carries in determining your course grade. Students receiving an “I” for a course are ineligible for graduation until the “I’ has been removed from a student’s transcript. Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. See Student Handbook.

Make-up Policy:

We will not have make-up tests in the DE Ethics, but we will have the rule of substituting the final exam grade. If a student writes a comprehensive final exam well, then we will assign the final exam grade for any missing exam grade. Please contact your instructor.

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 IF, FOR ANY REASON, THAT STUDENT IS NO LONGER ATTENDING. NEW RULES ARE IN
EFFECT THAT GREATLY CHANGE HOW AND WHEN THAT CAN BE DONE. YOU WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM THIS COURSE BY YOUR PROFESSOR. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE POSSIBLE PENALTIES, OTHER THAN LOSING ONE’S PAID TUITION THAT EVERY STUDENT MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE WITHDRAWING. THESE INCLUDE:

(1) a) 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) b) 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.

(3) c) No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw." 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".

DE Student Withdrawals - In order to withdraw from your DE class, you MUST first contact your DE professor PRIOR to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. After the withdrawal deadline has passed, you will receive the grade that you would have earned. It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class. If you do not feel comfortable contacting your professor to withdraw, you might contact the HCC counselor.

Description of “active participation”:

Your instructor will define what “active participation” is for your course. Active participation may be one or more of the following:

1) quiz/test on either the syllabus or another assignment.
2) essay response to an instructor's prompt.
3) discussion response to an instructor's question.

If you are having technical difficulties and cannot login, you must immediately contact your instructor and the Eagle Online Help desk or you will be counted as absent. Please follow the rules.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the appropriate HCC Disability Support Service (DSS) Counselor at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. Students who are requesting special testing accommodations must first contact the appropriate (most convenient) DSS office for assistance.

Disability Support Services Offices:
System: 713.718.5165
Central: 713.718.6164 – also for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Students Outside of the HCC District service areas.
Northwest: 713.718.5422
Northeast: 713.718.8420
Southeast: 713.718.7218
Southwest: 713.718.7909

After student accommodation letters have been approved by the DSS office and submitted to DE Counseling for processing, students will receive an email confirmation informing them of the Instructional Support Specialist assigned to their professor. In addition, please inform your instructor about a documented disability immediately at the beginning of the semester. To visit the ADA Web site, please log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, then scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.
For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college.

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.

Please Remember:

1. The instructor reserves the right to rearrange and possibly change the material.
2. The exam and project deadlines will be posted within the first few days of class.
3. All students who have technical problems during online exams must take them again in HCC testing centers. The exams should be proctored.
4. The grade from discussions will be given at the end of the semester.
5. The exams and assignments should be submitted via the Eagle Online features only.
6. The instructor will not accept exams and assignments sent via e-mail. Thanks for help.
7. Check your Eagle Online calendar and e-mail at the beginning of each week.
8. Always contact the instructor when you do not understand the material.
9. Good luck in Ethics!