

Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences

Philosophy Department

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/>

# Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | Lecture | # 10556

Semester 2020 | 16 Weeks

Format | Location | date and time

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

## Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Alex Raby Office Phone:

Office: 225B (Furr) Office Hours: 2nd Period

HCC Email: alexander.raby@hccs.edu Office Location: 225B

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

### Instructor’s Preferred Method of Contact

I will respond to emails within 48 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

## What’s Exciting About This Course

An introduction to the study of Philosophy. Philosophy is about the fundamental ideas upon which other ideas depend. It will cover topics such as whether or not God exists, what is the moral life and how ought we treat others, whether or not souls exist, whether or not we have free will to do as we please, whether or not knowledge about the world is obtainable, what is beauty, what is justice, and what is the meaning of life.

## Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

ENGL 1301

## Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 1301 will use [Canvas](file:///C:\Users\Matt%20Webster\AppData\Local\Temp\Canvas) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE** [**FIREFOX**](https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/) **OR** [**CHROME**](https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html) **AS THE INTERNET BROWSER**.

### HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

### Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

# Instructional Materials

## Textbook Information

Vaughn, Lewis. *Philosophy Here and Now: Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

### Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) website for services provided.

### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries’ resources and services is the HCCS library web page at [http://library.hccs.edu](http://library.hccs.edu/).

### Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

# Course Overview

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

## Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.

2. Analyze and critique philosophical texts in ways that demonstrate an awareness of argument structure and the evaluation of philosophical claims.

3. Present logically persuasive arguments orally and in writing that are relevant to philosophical issues covered in course material.

4. Evaluate personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world in terms of the philosophical issues raised in course material.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

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

1.1 Read canonical texts in the philosophical tradition.

1.2 Analyze, discuss, and critique philosophical texts in class, including through student

presentations.

1.3 Analyze and critique philosophical texts in written work, including papers and tests.

2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in central areas of

philosophy.

2.2 Define key concepts in your own words and provide definitions in regular quizzes.

2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers

studied in the course through short answer questions and papers.

3 Present logically persuasive arguments in presentations, papers, and tests.

4.1 Engage in critical thinking through classroom discussion and presentations.

4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in written work.

5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility.

5.2 Apply philosophical concepts discussed in the course to personal and

contemporary issues, demonstrating a concern for social and personal responsibility.

# Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

* Reading the textbook
* Attending class in person and/or online
* Completing assignments
* Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

(THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR

## Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to**:**

* Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
* Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
* Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
* Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
* Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
* Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to**:**

* Attend class in person and/or online
* Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
* Read and comprehend the textbook
* Complete the required assignments and exams
* Ask for help when there is a question or problem
* Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
* Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

# Assignments, Exams, and Activities

## Written Assignment

**Ethics Writing Assignment due with final exam.**

## Exams

**Three Exams: Multiple choice + essay**

## In-Class Activities

**Class Discussion is a necessary component.**

## Final Exam

**Final Exam will be comprehensive.**

## Grading Formula

Exams 30%

Discussion/Participation 20%

Writing Assignment 20%

Homework 10%

Quizzes 20%

Total: 100%

### Incomplete Policy:

**Incompletes are given at the discretion of the professor.**

### HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

[**http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/**](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

# Course Calendar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week 1 | Orientation + Chapter 1: Philosophy and You |
| Week 2 | Philosophy and You |
| Week 3 | God and Religion |
| Week 4 | God and Religion |
| Week 6 | Free Will and Determinism |
| Week 7 | Free Will and Determinism |
| Week 8 | Free Will and Determinism + Exam 1 |
| Week 9 | Mind and Body |
| Week 10 | Mind and Body |
| Week 11 | Mind and Body |
| Week 12 | Personal Identity |
| Week 13 | Personal Identity |
| Week 14 | Meaning of Life + Final Exam |

## Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

# Instructor’s Practices and Procedures

## Missed Assignments

Make-Ups will only be given with documentation of emergency that caused the student to miss the exam. Make ups are not re-takes and not given to mitigate poor performance on an exam. Final Exams are not eligible for make-ups.

## Academic Integrity

Read your Student Handbook online.  I will follow the general discipline provisions indicated in the Handbook.  Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: Cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion.

Scholastic Dishonesty will result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services. See the link below for details.

Here’s the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

## Attendance Procedures

Attendance is mandatory for this class. It is important to come to class!  The college allows you to miss four classes.  **You may be dropped for continued absences.**

## Student Conduct

In-Class behavior will be consistent with the student handbook’s code of conduct. Students will be respectful to each other and respect speakers and lecturers. Cheating will not be tolerated. In-Class discussion is an expectation as part of this course.

## Instructor’s Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

All assignments will be given on the HUB as part of the course materials once the Laptops have been distributed according to Power-Up.

## Electronic Devices

Cellphones and Laptops will be used as part of the course according to teacher discretion.

# PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Add program-specific information such as the following:

* PHIL Majors
* Careers in PHIL
* HCC PHIL Student Organizations
* PHIL Scholarships

Provide details for each or include links to the information

# HCC Policies

Here’s the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

* Academic Information
* Academic Support
* Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
* Career Planning and Job Search
* Childcare
* disability Support Services
* Electronic Devices
* Equal Educational Opportunity
* Financial Aid TV (FATV)
* General Student Complaints
* Grade of FX
* Incomplete Grades
* International Student Services
* Health Awareness
* Libraries/Bookstore
* Police Services & Campus Safety
* Student Life at HCC
* Student Rights and Responsibilities
* Student Services
* Testing
* Transfer Planning
* Veteran Services

## EGLS3

The EGLS3 ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS3 surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

## Campus Carry Link

Here’s the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry: <http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

## HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

# Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

## disability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

## Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual’s fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross  
Director EEO/Compliance  
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity  
3100 Main  
(713) 718-8271  
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

## Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

## Department Chair Contact Information

Helen Graham, Ed.D.

713-718-7258

Codwell Hall room, 125

555 Community College Dr.

Houston, TX  77013

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham>