HCC | HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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 | ONLINE | CRN#16121

Term | Course length (January 19- May 15, 2020)
ONLINE
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Cinnamon Jenson, PhD   Office Phone: 713-718-6185
Profile: https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cinnamon.jenson
HCC Email: cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu
Office: Spring Branch, Commons room 803
Online Chat: Mon, Wed 1:00 - 3:00

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

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. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings. Contact me with questions or concerns:
1. Canvas Inbox email
2. cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

Successful completion of ENGL 1301 or its equivalent.

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 1301 will use Eagle Online Canvas (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) and/or the Learning Web to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

NOTE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES:

This is an Online course that uses Eagle Online Canvas.
Here is a word of caution for those of you who are taking your first online course. This course will require you to spend at least the same amount of time as a class that meets three hours a week in a classroom,plus three additional hours of homework per week, for a total of six (6) hours a week.
This is not a self-paced course. You must meet the established deadlines for completing the assignments and tests. The flexibility of an online course allows you to choose the time of day or night to "enter" the virtual classroom.

The Eagle Online Canvas login page is:
https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/

Your Eagle Online username is your full HCC email address. 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 www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-e-maileagle-id/.
NOTE: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/. (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)
TECHNICAL SUPPORT: http://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/ or 713-718-5275
The HCC Online Student Handbook (http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/studenthandbook/) contains policies and procedures unique to the online student. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents.

HCC Online Information and Policies
http://www.hccs.edu/online/

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.
Refer to your course website for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course.

My Personal Welcome

I am excited to introduce you to some of the most thought-provoking topics that philosophers have grappled with. My role in this online course is to guide you through the material I have provided on Canvas, answer any questions you have, and give you feedback on your work. I look forward to getting to know you and to get started with the course.

Instructional Materials

The required text for this course is: Philosophy Here and Now 3rd
Edition by Lewis Vaughn. ISBN: 978-0190-852-344
The text is available online at the HCC Bookstore http://hccs.bncollege.com.

You will not be able to pass the class without the textbook. If you do not order your textbook online, your other options are: (1) to visit the HCC-Central bookstore, purchase and receive your book immediately, or (2) to visit any HCC bookstore and order the texts to be shipped to that location from the HCC-Central Bookstore.

One of the most important professional development skills you will achieve in college is reading comprehension and your ability to evaluate arguments, and reinterpret them in your own words. Please embrace this challenge! You are expected to carefully read the assigned material each week. Since this is an online class it is absolutely crucial that you read all assigned materials. It helps to take

notes when you are reading, and to formulate argument outlines and objections. The reading material will also fulfill background information, and aid in the quality of informed discussions in the discussion assignments.

Other Instructional Resources

Tutoring
Philosophy Tutoring is available at https://hccs.upswing.io Please use it if you need it.
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 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.

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)

Can be found at: https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy/course-student-learning-outcomes-and-learning-objectives-1

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

Can be found at: https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy/course-student-learning-outcomes-and-learning-objectives-1

Student Success

As with any three-hour course, expect to spend at least six hours per week outside of class reading and studying the material. I will provide assignments to help you use those six hours per week wisely. Additional time will be required for written assignments. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of reading the textbook, attending class, completing assignments in Eagle Online, and participating in class discussions. 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 your guide.

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
  (THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

There are three types of assessments:

Discussion Assignments (Due Wednesdays midnight) 30% of total course grade

Weekly Quizzes (Due Sundays midnight) 40% of total course grade

2 Essays 30% of total course grade

Weekly Response Assignments 30%

Response Assignments will consist of discussions and other activities. Discussion with your classmates is a vital part of learning online and doing philosophy. Some weeks may have more than one assignment or discussion. These discussions are an imperative portion of the course as they intend to replicate the discussions in a face-to-face classroom. Discussions will include an initial post, which will typically be due on Wednesdays by 11:59 pm and two comments on your classmates posts typically due Sundays by 11:59 pm.
Late posts will be penalized 10% for up to one week. A grading rubric is viewable in the Start Here Module.

Discussion assignments will count for 30% of your final grade.
You can find the discussion topics in the schedule on the Modules page. You can also find them by clicking the Discussion link in the Course Navigation. Detailed instructions will be given for each assignment.

Quizzes 40%

All quizzes are online, via the Canvas course. There may be additional self-assessment practice quizzes. Self-assessment quizzes are available so that you may check your progress and get an idea of what kinds of questions will be asked on the weekly quiz. These quizzes will NOT affect your grade.

Weekly Quizzes assess your knowledge of the week's assigned reading and will count for 40% of your final grade. It is advisable that you study the assigned reading material carefully before attempting the weekly Quiz. Weekly Quizzes will typically be due Sundays by 11:59 pm.
Late quizzes will be penalized 10% per week late.
See the "Read and Review" pages for each week to get that week's reading assignments in modules.
All quizzes and assignments are online—there are no in-person tests.

Essays 30%

You will write two essays for this course. Essays involve summarizing an argument from a philosopher or other thinker and developing your own arguments in response. Each essay will be approximately 1000 words long (approximately 3 typed double-spaced pages). Topics, instructions, tips, and due dates will be posted on Canvas.
Essays can be turned in late with 10% late penalty. No essays will be accepted after a week late.

The last day to submit late assignments is Sunday, May 10.

Grading Formula

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/

Incomplete Policy:
No student may withdraw from a course following the last date to withdraw. Incompletes are only granted with 80% completion of the course, passing grade, with permission from the department chair, and only in cases of emergency. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F".

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic / Assignments Due
1	Due January 26	Start Here Module, Scavenger Hunt, Syllabus quiz
1	January 19- January 26	Start here: Introduction Syllabus quiz, Introduction discussion, scavenger hunt
2-3	January 26- February 9	Module 1: Logic, Critical Thinking Vaughn, Chapter 1 Discussion Posts due Wednesdays. Two responses to student posts, and Quizzes due Sundays
4-7	February 9- March 8	Module 2: Morality and the Moral Life Vaughn, Chapter 3.1-3.4 Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Two responses to student posts, and Quizzes due Sundays
8-10	March 8 – March 29	Module 3: Free will and determinism Read Chapter 5.1-5.4 & "A little Omniscience goes a long way." Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Two responses to student posts, and Quizzes due Sundays
9	March 15- March 22	SPRING BREAK
11	Due March 29	Essay 1: Kant and Mill
11-13	March 29-April 19	Module 4: God and Religion Read Chapter 2.1 - 2.3 Assignments due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.
15	Due May 3	Essay: The Problem of Evil
14-16	April 19- May 10	Module 5: Knowledge and Skepticism Read Chapter 6.1 - 6.3 Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.
16	May 10	Last day to submit

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
Assignments may be submitted late for 10% penalty. Please email your instructor with emergencies that prohibit your completion of assignments.

Academic Integrity
Turnitin plagiarism detection software will be used to detect plagiarism (http://turnitin.com/en_us/higher-education).
You may use the APA manual online at: http://www.apastyle.org/ or http://PurdueOwl.org. For proper grammar, use the Elements of Style by Strunk and White, online at: http://www.bartleby.com/141/

See the following for additional information for what counts as plagiarism: http://plagiarism.org/ and http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. A student who is academically dishonest is claiming an advantage not available to other students. You are expected to be familiar with HCC's policy on Academic Dishonesty located at http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/ Pleading ignorance of the rules, including improper documentation (MLA, APA, etc.) is no justification for academic dishonesty.

Do not use the internet unless indicated in the assignment instructions. Use your Vaughn textbook only. Assignments copied from the internet in part or whole will receive a 0.

Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may or may not have an opportunity to resubmit their work and may receive a grade of 0 for the first assignment, an F in the course for a second assignment, and a report in our Maxient system which could lead to dismissal from the college. 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

This is not a self-paced class. There will be weekly deadlines for assignments and quizzes.
All students are expected to attend classes regularly, thus online students must login to their course(s) on a regular basis. HCC Online students who do not login and actively participate (see description below) before the Official Day of Record may be dropped for non-attendance.
Active participation can be accomplished by a student's response to any of the following:
• quiz/test on either the syllabus or another assignment (e.g. early reading assignment, self-assessment)- graded or not
• essay response to an instructor's prompt - diagnostic or graded
• discussion response to an instructor's question (e.g. asking students to identify themselves and explain expectations for the course) - graded or not
• email communication with the instructor (i.e. student notifies the instructor about technical difficulties or other extenuating circumstances and explains how/when these problems will be resolved).

Student Conduct

This is a safe environment. Students who violate the HCC Student code of ethics will be reported to the Maxient system.

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
- Veteran Services

- 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

EGLS³

The EGLS3 (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) 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/

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 and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Institutional Equity

 (http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/

disAbility Services

http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/

Title IX

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

Office of the Dean of Students

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

Department Chair Contact Information

Dr. Helen Graham, 713-718-7258, helen.graham@hccs.edu