



Intro to Philosophy Syllabus

PHIL 1301 - Introduction to Philosophy

CRN: 36523 - Fall 2017

HCC Online

3 hour online course/16 weeks

Instructor: Cinnamon Jenson

Learning Web Page:
<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cinnamon.jenson>

Email: cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu

Office hours and Online Chat: Mon. & Wed. 1:00pm - 4:00pm

And by appointment Spring Branch Campus. Commons
Building, Room #801.

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.

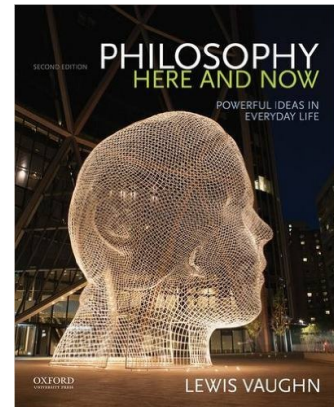
Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

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.

Required Reading:

The required text for this course is: *Philosophy Here and Now 2e* by Lewis Vaughn. ISBN: 978-0-19-020703.



The text is available online at the HCC Bookstore <http://hccs.bncollege.com>. 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. If you are delayed in obtaining the text contact me and I will provide you with a pdf of Chapter 1 so that you can get started.

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.

Course Schedule:

Item	Deadline
Start Here Module	Aug 27-Sept 2
Complete Introduction Assignment	Aug 30
Complete Scavenger Hunt Assignment	Sept 3
Complete Syllabus Quiz	Sept 3
Module 1: Introduction to Philosophy & Critical Thinking	Sept 4- Sept 17
Read Chapter 1 Discussion Posts due Wednesdays, Quizzes due Sundays	
Module 2: Morality and the Moral Life	Sept 24-Oct 15
Read Chapter 3.1-3.4 Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.	
Essay: Kant and Mill	Due October 22

Module 3: Free Will and Determinism	Oct 16- Oct 29
Read chapter 5.1 - 5.4 & "A Little Omniscience Goes a Long Way" Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.	
Module 4: God and Religion	Oct 30-Nov 12
Read Chapter 2.1 - 2.3 Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.	
Essay: The Problem of Evil	Due November 19
Module 5: Knowledge and Skepticism	Nov 13- Dec 3
Read Chapter 6.1 - 6.3 Discussion posts due Wednesdays. Quizzes due Sundays.	

Assessments and Grading:

There are three types of assessment.

Discussion Assignments (Due Wednesdays midnight)	30% of total course grade
Weekly Quizzes (Due Sundays midnight)	40% of total course grade
Essays	30% of total course grade

Grading Policy

The term grade legend follows:

A = 90% to 100%	4 GPA points per semester hour
B = 80% to 89.9%	3 GPA points per semester hour
C = 70% to 79.9%	2 GPA points per semester hour
D = 60% to 69.9%	1 GPA point per semester hour
F = 0% to 59.9%	0 GPA points per semester hour
FX (Failure due to non-attendance)	0 points per semester hour

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.

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

Weekly Discussions

Discussion with your classmates is a vital part of learning online and doing philosophy. In this course, you will participate weekly class discussions. Some weeks may have more than one discussion. These discussions are an imperative portion of the course as they intend to replicate the discussions in a face-to-face classroom. **These 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% per week late.** 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

There are two types of quizzes. Self-assessment practice quizzes and Weekly 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%. Late posts will be penalized 10% per week late.**

You will typically be given more than one attempt for Weekly Quizzes and your highest score will be kept.

See the "Read and Review" pages for each week to get that week's reading assignments in modules. These quizzes will be taken online

Essays

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). The second argument essay will count as your final exam for the course.

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.** Each essay will be worth 100 points. Your points will be totaled and your argument essays grade will be given as a percentage, worth **30% of your final grade.**

Academic Honesty:

Learning to give credit through proper citations is an important skill you may need throughout your chosen career. The currency of academics and scientists is their ideas. This means that if you do not give them credit for their ideas, you are stealing. I will provide instruction for proper citation and bibliography. I will be vigorously looking for plagiarism in your assignments. Be advised that I may be employing Turnitin plagiarism detection software (http://turnitin.com/en_us/higher-education). Plagiarized assignments will receive a 0 until re-submitted in your own work. Repeat plagiarism may be subject to

disciplinary action within HCC guidelines. The following website explains HCC's stance on plagiarism and other forms of cheating.

<http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-handbook/> (See the section on “Scholastic Dishonesty”)

Other useful websites on this topic are <http://plagiarism.org/> and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>

Notice 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, and some students find that an online course takes more time.

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 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-mail/eagle-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/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/HCC_Online_Student_Handbook_Fall2016.pdf) (http://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/HCC_Online_Student_Handbook_Fall2016.pdf) contains policies and procedures unique to the online student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars.

Attendance

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, **September 12**, 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).

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.
- (3) 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". Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript.

Academic Calendar:

<http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/>

Students with Disabilities:

The HCC Disabilities website is located at the following url:<http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>. 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.

Title IX Policy:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights is on the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly.

Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org sign in using your HCC student email account, then go to the button at the top right that says Login and enter your student number.

Student Services:

For information on student services including counseling, academic advising, financial help, child care, library services, etc. I encourage you to go to the student handbook website <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-handbook/>

Campus Carry law:

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

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.