

Introduction to Phil 1301



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

Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | CRN #12862

Spring 2020 | 16 Weeks Jan 21 – May 14 Lecture | 3
Credit Hours Spring Branch Campus RM 312| Tuesdays &
Thursdays 8:00 – 9:20 am

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Cinnamon Jenson Office: Commons bldg., room
803 HCC Email: cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu

Office Phone: 713-718-6185 Office Hours: Mon – Wed 12:30 –
3:00 pm Office Location: Spring Branch Campus

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

Please contact me with questions or concerns via the Canvas
inbox, or at cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu. I will respond to
emails within 48 hours Monday through Friday.

About This Course

I am excited to introduce you to some of the most interesting
and thought-provoking topics from the field of Western

Philosophy. Throughout this course, we will examine some topics in Western philosophy concerning the nature of knowledge, personal identity, and the mind. This class examines philosophy topics through Science Fiction movies, books, and other media. We examine arguments so that you can practice developing skills of critical thinking that you will use for the rest of your life.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

English 1301

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 1301 will use Eagle Online [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) and/or the [Learning Web](#) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. If you are having trouble with your computer, there are computers available at any public library and HCC campus. HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING EAGLE ONLINE

(CANVAS): You must set your Canvas notifications to accept emails. This is a web-enhanced lecture course that uses Eagle Online Canvas. The Eagle Online Canvas login page is: <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/> Or, from the main HCC website (www.hccs.edu) --> on the top vertical toolbar click "student sign-ins" --> Sign in using your user ID and password--> click "Eagle online (canvas)" tool. You will automatically be assigned Canvas page to each of your classes at HCC. 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-maileagle-id/. NOTE: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of

Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:
<http://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/> or 713-718-5275

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Refer to your HCC Canvas course website for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course.

Tutoring

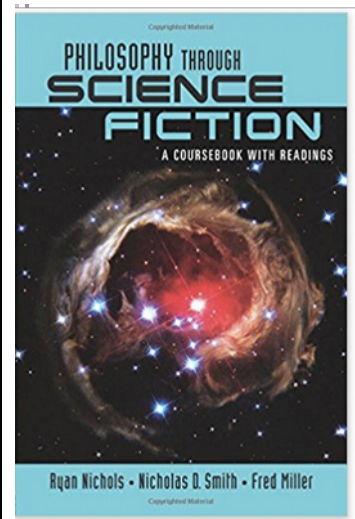
HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Instructional Materials

REQUIRED READING:

Nichols, Smith, Miller (eds). 2009. Philosophy through Science Fiction: A coursebook with readings. Routledge: New York.

Download additional articles in CANVAS under MODULES.



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)

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

You will be able to define, explain, and critique arguments foundational arguments from notable philosophers and the problems they were grappling with in three fields of philosophy (Logic, Philosophy of Mind, and Epistemology).

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

You will be able to assess the validity, soundness, assumptions, consequences, and fallacies in philosophers' arguments and popular media. Parse and Outline arguments. Identify informal fallacies

in your experiences. Practice critical thinking skills that will improve personal empowerment, engage in civic duty, think independently, and defend against faulty reasoning.

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

You will be able to express, support, and defend your position in your assignments and discussions while acknowledging its weaknesses and realizing that your position is fallible (that is, it can and should change given new evidence and information). Hopefully, you will begin to feel comfortable making decisions in spite of an uncertainty of knowledge.

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

Practice civic engagement in activities and group work to

synthesize your philosophy theories and ethical beliefs with others, and to apply these concepts to your experiences. This is a safe class environment: Critique the argument, not the person.

5. Additional skills will center on writing skills such as structure, proper citation, and research.

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

This class is modeled on a *flipped-classroom style*, where you will prepare for class by reading the material and completing response assignments BEFORE you come to class, in order to apply concepts you have read about. The focus is not so much on memorizing content, but instead to improve lifelong skills in reading comprehension, writing, dialect, critiquing, and having great conversations.

ASSESSMENTS:

Attendance and participation 30% Response Assignments (Canvas) 40% Argument Essays (Canvas) 30%

ATTENDANCE, IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATION, DISCUSSION.

Philosophy is said to be one long conversation from Plato to you. By engaging in discussion, you add different perspectives to your knowledge. Philosophy is created by synthesizing ideas with others, applying philosophical themes to current issues, critiquing arguments, and by examining your reasons for your beliefs. Come to class prepared for discussion and civic engagement. If you come late to class, you may receive 80% attendance for that day. It is required that you participate in class activities.

RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS, READING MATERIALS,

AND HANDOUTS WILL BE POSTED IN "EAGLE ONLINE (CANVAS)" in **Modules**→ **"Schedule and Readings."**

There are three types of Assignments:

1. Response assignments. **All assignments are due BEFORE CLASS.** They improve skills in reading comprehension and writing, and prepare you for class discussions. **You can submit late assignments up to 1 week with a 10% penalty.**

Response assignments ask you to write a few paragraphs on an assigned activity, such as watching a YouTube, listening to a podcast, taking a unit quiz, doing logic puzzles, or taking interactive ethics quizzes. You can submit late assignments for up to one week, and it is important to keep schedule.

2. Reading Quizzes. **Reading quizzes are due BEFORE CLASS.** They have a hard deadline and will be closed before class. **Reading quizzes cannot be submitted late.** Reading quizzes are due midnight on the night before we discuss the material in class. This is to help you improve your skills in some of the most important professional development skills you will achieve in college, namely skills in reading comprehension, your ability to evaluate arguments, and to reinterpret them in your own words. Please embrace this challenge! You are expected to carefully read the assigned material before class. It helps to take notes when you are reading, and to formulate argument outlines and objections.

3. Unit quizzes. Review quizzes are summative. Treat them as if you are taking an in-class exam. They are open book (never use the internet, plagiarize, or collude). **You can submit unit quizzes up to 1 week with a 10% penalty.** There may be in-class quizzes. Extra credit opportunities may be available in the DISCUSSION BOARD, for up to 2 points total. **All LATE assignments cannot be submitted after the last day of class.**

ESSAYS.

You will write 3-4 argument essays consisting of approximately 2 pages. An argument essay asks you to summarize a philosopher's argument, critique the argument and then develop your own argument against it with proper citation. Each essay is designed to train you in a specific area of professional writing. **DO NOT USE WEBSITES** or outside resources. You must **CITE PROPERLY** whenever you explain a philosopher's argument, use quotes, or summarize an article. **Late essays will receive a penalty of 10%.** You may edit and resubmit essays until the last day of class.

READ THE COMMENTS ON YOUR ESSAYS AND ASSIGNMENTS. You can find comments in the "Grades" tab.

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

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> Final grades are rounded up .5

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, 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".

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

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.

Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class.

Course Calendar

The schedule and reading materials are found in the **MODULES** section of CANVAS. **MODULES** will be your main portal that links to readings, assignment instructions, and handouts. Schedule is subject to change.



Week	Dates	Topic / Assignments Due
1	Due January 26	Introduction, orientation (Canvas), thought experiments Nichols, Chapter 1 (pdf provided)
2-4	January 26-February 16	Module 1: Logic, Critical Thinking, Cognitive biases, Fallacies
5-8	February 16-March 13	Module 2: Personal Identity Nichols, Chapter 6 & Perry
	March 29	Essay 1: Personal Identity
9	March 15-March 21	Spring Break

10-12	March 22- April 12	Module 3: Minds, brains, robots, aliens Nichols, Chapter 5
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Week	Dates	Topic / Assignments Due
		Essay: Data, consciousness and personhood
13-15	April 12 – May 7	Module 4: Epistemology Nichols, Chapter 2
	May 7	Last day to submit late work

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 Assignment

Email me if you have legitimate reasons for missed classes or assignments. You must schedule your time appropriately. If you are having computer issues, computers may be used at the HCC campus as well as the public library.

Academic Integrity

PLAGIARISM – (Reference Student Code of Conduct)
 "Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit. Be advised that this class employs Turnitin

plagiarism detection software
(http://turnitin.com/en_us/higher-education).

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.

Collusion includes: Showing your essays to others, writing other people's work, or taking quizzes together. Plagiarism includes copying and pasting from the internet, and not citing properly for any assignment. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, DO NOT USE OUTSIDE RESOURCES. Use the required readings only.

DO NOT USE WEBSITES FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENTS. Unless stated in the assignment, you should be using your textbook and required materials only. Copying websites is considered plagiarism.

If you are unclear what constitutes as plagiarism, please visit our library website at the following address: http://library.hccs.edu/research_writing/plagiarism

For citation of your required materials, 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/>

A student who is academically dishonest is claiming an advantage not available to other students. Pleading ignorance

of the rules, including improper documentation (MLA, APA, etc.) is no justification for academic dishonesty. 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/>

Electronic Devices

NO COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES, RECORDINGS, ELECTRONICS, OR FOOD PLEASE.

Cell phones are distracting to you, me, and your classmates. PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Please refer to our Philosophy program page for information on student groups and organizations.

<https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy> You can also follow our philosophy club Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/HCC-Philosophy-Club-88672027009/>

HCC Policies

HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

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/](#)

Campus Carry Link

<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](#) 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 Houston, TX 77266-7517 (713) 718-8271 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>