Ethics Phil 2306

the good life

**PHIL 2306
CLASS #: 14271
SPRING, 2019**

**SPRING BRANCH CAMPUS
ROOM 214**

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
11:00 AM – 12:20 PM
JANUARY 14 – MAY 11, 2019**

ETHICS COACH:
CINNAMON JENSON

LEARNING WEB PROFILE:
HTTPS://LEARNING.HCCS.EDU/
FACULTY/CINNAMON.JENSON

EMAIL:
CINNAMON.JENSON@HCCS.EDU

OFFICE SPRING BRANCH,
COMMONS BUILDING, ROOM 801
M T W 1 – 4 PM

HOW TO BE A KICK-ASS ETHICIST (CLASS OBJECTIVES)

1. DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE AND 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 ETHICAL THEORIES.

4. EVALUATE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIVING IN A DIVERSE WORLD.

5. APPLY ETHICAL THEORIES TO DAILY ACTIVITIES, AND TO ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY DEBATES.

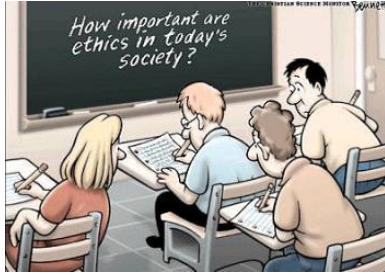**6. PRACTICE** PROFESSIONAL WRITING SKILLS.

ASSESSMENTS
*ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (30%)
*WEEKLY RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS (30 %)
*ESSAYS AND CASE ANALYSIS (40%)

All reading materials, assignments, and schedule are on CANVAS (Eagle Online).

Schedule and assignments are in the Canvas Page–> Modules

Spring 2019

Philosophy 2306

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

TO ETHICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I am excited to introduce you to some of the most interesting and thought-provoking topics in Ethics, a subfield of philosophy. The course introduces philosophical methods of inquiry and argumentation.

Ethics involves thinking about what we ought to do. We will survey numerous ethical theories from Ethical Conventionalism and Realism, including Cultural Ethical Relativism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Divine Command Theory, and Egoism. The complexities and dynamics that frame these theories will be emphasized as we read and discuss primary texts from past and present philosophers. We will apply traditional theories to contemporary debates in wealth and consumption, animal rights, capital punishment, abortion, gay marriage, and others.

Texas ACGM/ HCC CATALOGUE 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. 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.

PREREQUISITES:

Prerequisites: ENG 1301 or higher.

FULFILLS HCC CORE CURRICULUM DEGREE REQUIREMENT:

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

Texas SLO: Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and 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.
5. **Apply** relevant ethical theories to daily activities, and to issues in contemporary debates.

Class Student Outcomes:

1. You will be able to **define**, **explain**, and **critique** arguments foundational arguments from notable philosophers and the problems they were grappling with in three major ethical theories: Cultural Ethical Relativism, Utilitarianism, Deontology.

2. You will be able to **analyze and 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. You will be able to **develop**, **express**, **support**, and **defend** your position in on various philosophical issues and contemporary ethical dilemmas 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 also begin to feel comfortable making decisions in spite of an uncertainty of knowledge.

4. **Evaluate and apply** philosophical theories in your daily life. 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 **professional development** in writing, interpersonal communication skills and public speaking, researching, and using proper citations.

READING:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS, READING MATERIALS, AND HANDOUTS WILL BE POSTED IN "EAGLE ONLINE (CANVAS)." ALL ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO "ASSIGNMENTS" IN CANVAS.

You must check Announcements in CANVAS often, especially if you miss class. Set your Canvas Notifications to receive announcements, comments on assignments, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING EAGLE ONLINE (CANVAS):

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

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS:

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 group activities.

30% WEEKLY RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS.

Each DAY you will complete one or two response assignments in the ASSIGNMENTS toolbar in CANVAS. The responses will 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 always submit late assignments up until the last day of class, but it is important to keep schedule. **Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty. READING QUIZZES have a hard deadline with no late assignments accepted.** Extra credit opportunities may be made available for up to 2 points.

40% ESSAYS AND CURRENT DEBATE CASE ANALYSIS.

Two argument essays consist of approximately 3 pages each. An argument essay asks you to summarize a philosopher's argument, critique the argument and then develop your own argument against it, using quotes, and citing properly. Each essay is designed to train you in a specific area of professional writing. DO NOT USE WEBSITES while writing your responses. Instructions and tips will be posted on Canvas. You must CITE PROPERLY and provide a BIBLIOGRAPHY. Plagiarized essays may receive a failing grade. All assignments should be submitted to the ASSIGNMENTS in CANVAS. The essays have a HARD DEADLINE, and late assignments will receive a penalty of 10%.

Case analysis debates will follow the structure of Ethics Bowl debates, with writing elements, group work and debate activities. Additional group work or presentations may be scheduled.

All assignments are due Sunday of Finals Week.

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

SCHEDULE:

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

Unit 1	Unit 1: Critical Thinking for Ethicists. * The two main categories of ethical theories: Conventionalism and Realism * The importance of critical thinking * Arguments, validity, soundness * Informal fallacies

Unit 2	Unit 2: Conventionalism * Cultural Ethical Relativism * Egoism * Social Contract Theory
Unit 3	Unit 3: Ethical Realism * Utilitarianism * Deontology
Unit 4	Unit 4: Applied Ethics * Ethics Cases * Current Debates (Class Presentations may be scheduled)

STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

HCC Policies:
> http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-handbook/

Your educational information is private and protected. FERPA Rules:
> http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

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. Your instructor will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student. 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 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 HONESTY:

An important skill that you need throughout your career is the ability to cite properly. The currency of academics is their ideas. That means that if you do not give credit to authors for their ideas, then you are stealing. I will provide instructions for citation and bibliography throughout your Argument Essay instructions. You may also 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. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. 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.
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.
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, DO NOT USE OUTSIDE RESOURCES. Use the required readings only.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The HCC Accessibility website is located at the following url:
http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/accessibility/. 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. Spring Branch Counselor: Lisa Parkinson M.Ed., LPC Tel: 713-718-5422 or Tel: 713-718-5667

TITLE IX: THIS IS A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:
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:
Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
 For more information see: http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/institutionalequity/title-ix-know-your-rights/
The Office of Institutional Equity: http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/institutionalequity/

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.

STUDENT SUPPORT:
Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN
Supplemental Instructional Activities: To be determined by the instructor if needed.

Instructional Content: SLOs are listed above. Faculty align their assignments with the SLO's when preparing their syllabi. These are addressed through a variety of assignments determined by the instructor.

Evaluation Procedures: SLOs are determined to have been met upon successful completion by students of pre-determined outcome aligned assessments. Successful completion is a grade of 70 or higher.