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 2306: Introduction to Ethics | FLEX | CRN#12448

Term | Course length (August 24 – December 11, 2020)
FLEX
MEETING TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 am – 11:50 am
MEETING LOCATION: Canvas Course "Media Gallery"
Starting October 5: In-Class: Spring Branch Campus, room 308
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 and by appointment. Virtual office hours use "Chat" or "Media Gallery" for video chat in the Canvas Course.

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. Comments box in Grades: Assignment: Comments box.
2. Canvas Inbox email
3. Email: 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) for synchronous meetings, assignments, exams, and activities.

NOTE ABOUT FLEX COURSES:

This is a FLEX CLASS. That means we meet virtually for meetings using the Kaltura platform, found in the Canvas Course: "Media Gallery."

Starting October 5 we will start meeting IN CLASS. 9 students are allowed in classrooms at a time. You will be part of a cohort of a maximum of 9 students to attend in-class sessions. The dates will be announced later. If you are not in class in person, then you are expected to participate online, in Canvas: "Media Gallery" during class times. These dates may change depending on social distance policies.

All assignments and quizzes will be on Canvas. This course will require you to spend at least the same amount of time as a class that meets three hours a week virtually or 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.

HCC Online Login, Information and Policies

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

Your Eagle Online username is your **full** HCC email address (WStudentID@student.hccs.edu). 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

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.

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.
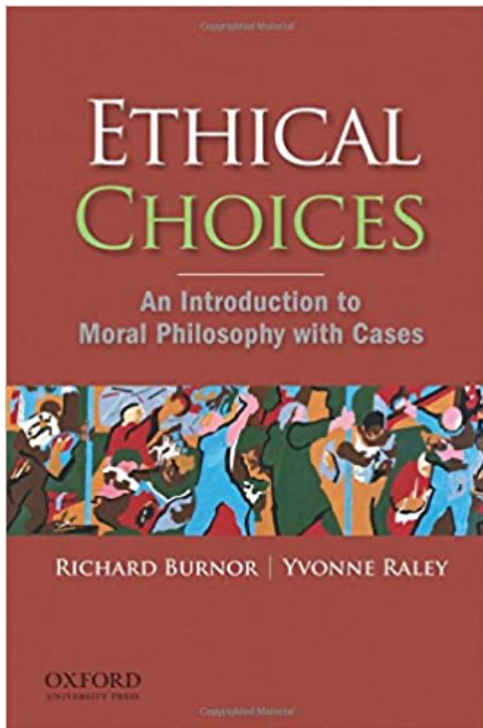
WELCOME TO Introduction to Ethics!

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 such as wealth and consumption, animal rights, capital punishment, abortion, gay marriage, immigration, gun control and others.

Instructional Materials

The required text for this course is:

Burnor and Raley. 2018. Ethical Choices: An Introduction to moral philosophy. Oxford. ISBN: 9780190464509

You will not be able to pass the class without the textbook.

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

1.1 Read canonical texts and contemporary articles in the philosophical tradition of ethics.
1.2 Analyze, **discuss**, and **critique** philosophical texts and ethical questions through open
annotation exercises, papers, and discussion forums.
1.3 Analyze and **critique** philosophical texts and practical ethical questions in papers and tests.
2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in philosophical ethics.
2.2 Recognize key concepts in regular quizzes.
2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers studied in the course through papers and assignments.
3 Present logically persuasive arguments in papers and tests.
4.1 Engage in critical thinking through discussion forums, papers, and tests.
4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in all written work.
5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility in papers and discussion forums.

5.2 Apply philosophical concepts discussed in the course to personal and contemporary issues, demonstrating a concern for social and personal responsibility in written work.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

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. Writing exercises, activities, quizzes and other assignments will help you use those six hours per week wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of reading the textbook, attending class meetings virtually, 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 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

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

All assignments, schedule, and extra readings can be found in CANVAS: MODULES: "Schedule and Readings."
There are three types of assessments:
Participation   20%
Writing Exercises including Discussion Assignments, Essays, Reading Quizzes and Unit Quizzes. A final project on current debates may be assigned. 80%

Participation Procedures

You will be required to meet during class time, on the virtual platform in the Canvas Course: "Media Gallery."
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 you must login to your 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:
*Actively participating during class hours, participating in activities such as breakout rooms, engaging in discussions and asking questions. If you simply log on and step away from the computer, you may be dropped from the class session.

Note that absences during week 1 may drop you from the class. Make sure to do the following during week 1:
* Attend class meetings virtually in the Canvas Course: "Media Gallery"
* Take the syllabus quiz.
* Complete the "Introduce yourself" discussion response
* Email me about technical difficulties or other extenuating circumstances and explain how/when these problems will be resolved).

Weekly Writing exercises

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

Writing exercises 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 Tuesdays by 11:59 pm and two comments on your classmates posts typically due Thursdays by 11:59 pm.
Late posts will be penalized 10% for up to one week. Assignments close after a week.

Essays involve summarizing an argument from a philosopher or other thinker and developing your own arguments in response. Each essay will be approximately 1-2 double-spaced pages. Topics, instructions, tips, and due dates will be posted on Canvas. Case analysis debates include writing elements, group work and debate activities. Current debate projects may include group presentations, academic posters, or other group work.

Essays can be turned in late with 10% late penalty. No essays will be accepted after a week late.

Quizzes

Quizzes Reading quizzes and Unit assess your knowledge of the week's assigned reading. Read the material carefully before attempting the weekly Quiz.

Late quizzes will be penalized 10% per week late.
See the Modules: "Schedule and Reading" pages for each week to get that week's reading assignments.

The last day to submit late assignments is December 7.

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
1-3	August 24-September 11 (Labor day: Sept 7)	Orientation Module Module 1: Introduction and Critical Thinking Burnor & Raley Chapter 1 Gansberg, Milgram, Trolley Problems Ethical Reasoning, Critical Thinking, Cognitive biases, Fallacies
4-5	September 14 – Sept 25	Module 2: Cultural Relativism Burnor & Raley: Chapter 2 & 4
6-7	September 28-October 16	Module 3: Utilitarianism Burnor & Raley: Chapter 6-7
8-9	October 12 – October 23	Module 4: Deontology Burnor & Raley: Chapter 8
12-15	October 26 – December 4 (Thanksgiving November 26-27)	Module 5: Case Studies and Current Debates: Applying Ethical Theories
Last day	December 7	Last day to submit late assignments.

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 Stich & Donaldson 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.

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/

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
- 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
- Veteran Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning

EGLS^3

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