



Philosophy 1301

Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 1301

Class #: 11361

Summer 2017

Spring Branch Campus,

Room 711

Monday - Friday

8:00 – 10:00 am



Instructor: Cinnamon Jensor

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

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Office hours: Spring
Branch, Commons Building
room 801

Monday- Wednesday 1:00-
3:00 pm

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY:

AN EXAMINATION OF PHILOSOPHY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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.

Texas ACGM Course Description: This course is a study of the major issues in philosophy and the work of major philosophers. Topics include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications. 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.

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.

PREREQUISITES: Prerequisites: ENG 1301 or higher.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO):

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.

PHILOSOPHY COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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 raised in course material.
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 professionally, interpersonal communication skills and public speaking, researching, and using proper citations.

ASSESSMENTS:

Attendance and participation	40%
Weekly Response Assignments (Canvas)	40%
Two Argument Essays (Canvas)	20%

40% 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. This is an intensive 5 week course-- missing one class is the equivalent of missing a week in a full semester.

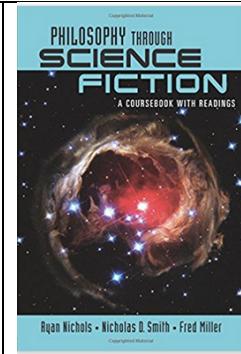
READING.

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 before class. All reading material and the schedule is in MODULES, in Canvas. It helps to take notes when you are reading, and to formulate argument outlines and objections.

REQUIRED READING:

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

Download additional articles in CANVAS under MODULES.



40% WEEKLY RESPONSE ASSIGNMENTS.

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 set your Canvas notifications to accept emails.

Check Announcements in CANVAS often, especially if you miss class.

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

Each DAY you will complete one or two response assignments. The responses may 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 explaining or creating arguments. All instructions are found in ASSIGNMENTS. You can submit late assignments with a 10% penalty. The last day of class is Monday, July 3, and no assignments will be accepted after Wednesday, July 5. Extra credit opportunities are made available in the DISCUSSION BOARD, for up to 3 points total.

20% ARGUMENT ESSAYS.

Included in the weekly response assignments are 2 short 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 while writing your assignments. You must CITE PROPERLY whenever you explain a philosopher's argument, use quotes, or summarize an article. The essays have a HARD DEADLINE, and late assignments will receive a penalty of 10%.

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

Cell phones are distracting to you, me, and your peers.

SCHEDULE:

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	Topic
Week 1 June 5-9	Introduction to philosophy * Thought experiments * Critical Thinking; Logic, validity, soundness * Informal Fallacies ; Cognitive Biases
Wee 2 June 12-16	Philosophy of Mind: Personal Identity * Are you the same person you were yesterday? * Three theories of personal identity: Body, soul, memory.
Week 3 June 19-23	Philosophy of Mind: The Mind/Body problem * Dualism vs. Physicalism * Consciousness; Can Robots feel pain? * The nature of time
Week 4 June 26-30	Epistemology * Are you dreaming, in a computer simulation, or in the matrix? Knowledge vs. Belief * Can you trust your senses? Rationalism vs. Empiricism * Science vs. Pseudoscience
Week 5 July 3-5	Last day of class: July 3 Holiday: July 4 All assignments due July 5 (No in-class final exam)

STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

a.) HCC Policies:

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

b.) FERPA Rights:

<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.

YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DROPPED IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND THE FIRST TWO DAYS

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) By Texas Legislature law a student may withdraw no more than six total course 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/>

Assignments that are plagiarized in part or whole will not be graded, and will receive a zero until re-submitted. If you plagiarize, you may receive a 0 for your assignment, and you may fail the class.

See the following website for HCC's stance on academic misconduct.

<http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-handbook/> (See the section on "Scholastic Dishonesty"; p. 18)

See the following for additional information on plagiarism:

<http://plagiarism.org/> and <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>

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.

THIS IS A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

Title IX protects any person from sex-based discrimination, regardless of their real or perceived sex, gender identity, and/or gender expression. Female, male, and gender non-conforming students, faculty, and staff are protected from any sex-based discrimination, harassment or violence.

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/>

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.