

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS¹

PHIL 2306 (16236)
Summer 1 (8WK) 2016

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Dan Flores

E-MAIL: profdanflores@gmail.com

It is very important that you go [HERE](#) and log-in and update your e-mail to one that you will check regularly and that you can receive notifications at.

LEARNING WEB: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/daniel.flores1>

OFFICE: Spring Branch Campus, Suite 110; Hours: E-mail and by appointment.

My office is located in between The Commons and The Science Building. It is the first single door to the right of The Commons.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Houston+Community+College/@29.7867065,-95.5609929,19z/data=!4m5!1m2!2m1!1sHouston+community+college,+1050+West+Sam+Houston+Pkwy+N,+Houston,+TX!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xc534893525e03f9f>

PHONE: 713.718.7465.

MEETING TIME: On-line; June 6—July 31, 2016

2. COURSE 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 (Texas ACGM). 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.

3. HCC STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

a.) HCC Student Policies:

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

b.) FERPA Rules:

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

c.) The [Instructor Welcome](#), [On Being A Good Student](#), [General Grading Rubric](#), & [Justification Form](#) are extensions of this Syllabus.

4. DE POLICIES

All students are responsible for reading and understanding the DE Student Handbook, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. For the DE Student Handbook click on the link below or go to the DE page on the HCC website.

The **Distance Education Student Handbook** contains policies and procedures unique to the DE 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 DE 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. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://de.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/DE-Student-Handbook.pdf>

Access CE Policies on their Web site:

<http://www.hccs.edu/continuing-education/>

¹ **PLEASE NOTE:** THE "JUSTIFICATION FORM," "INSTRUCTOR WELCOME," & "ON BEING A GOOD STUDENT" DOCUMENTS LOCATED ON MY LEARNING WEB PAGE (learning.hccs.edu/faculty/daniel.flores1) ARE CONSIDERED A PART OF THIS SYLLABUS.

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO AMMEND, REVOKE, AND ADD TO THE POLICIES AND PROCEEDURES IN THIS COURSE AND ON THIS SYLLABUS AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION (esp., the Justification Form) ACCORDING TO CLASS NEED AND MY DISCRESSION.

5. TEXT AND READINGS

All readings will be provided for you via links on your Syllabus and your EO2 page for this course.

6. GRADED WORK

Weekly Assignments/Quizzes ... 60 points (10 points each x 6 assignments)

Mid-Term Exam 20 points

Final Exam 20 points

Total 100 points

GENERALLY, ALL ASSIGNMENTS (INCLUDING MID-TERM AND FINAL) WILL OPEN MONDAYS AT 12AM AND CLOSE THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY AT 11PM. IF THINGS EVER CHANGE, I WILL NOTIFY YOU.

Assignments and Quizzes can be 1) a mix of M/C and T/F questions, 2) M/C, T/F, and short answer, or 3) short answer assignment. For short answer assignments I expect that you should be able to write one to two paragraphs consisting of about seven to ten sentences for each question. Proper grammar and syntax is important. If I cannot understand your words, there is nothing for me to grade. I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR DETAIL AND FOR PROOF THAT YOU ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL. Please see the folder [GENERAL GRADING RUBRICS](#) located on my Learning Web page for more detail about what counts as Excellent, Average, and Poor. The Mid-Term will be written and will cover everything from the beginning of class (including the Syllabus, [Instructor Welcome](#), [On Being A Good Student](#), & [Justification Form](#) up to the exam. The Final Exam will cover everything after the Mid-Terms up until the Final. Read my "[On Being A Good Student](#)" located on my Learning Web page.

7. ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UPS, AND GRADES

For on-line courses, attendance will be constituted by your weekly ASSIGNMENTS and the MID-TERM & FINAL. Please note the following.

1. All work needs to be submitted on time. This is an on-line course and it is the 21st Century, you need to take into account the possibility that something might go wrong with submitting such as server crashes, or submission buttons not working, etc. This means that you need to plan ahead and not wait until the last minute to submit. **You have plenty of time to do the work and submit it on time.** That's the end of the story. If you do not submit the assignments on time, it will be considered late and you will have to write up a [Justification Form](#). As you will notice, late submissions due to "submission buttons not working," etc. will not be considered a proper justification. **If there is an actual technical problem, then this needs to be documented** (e.g., by taking screen shots, log reports, calls to the IT department, etc.) and handed in with the Justification form. Please note that your documentation needs to show me that there was actually a problem. For example, a screen shot showing the "Submit" button with no attached assignment does not show me that there was a problem submitting.
2. DO NOT SEND MY YOUR ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS BY E-MAIL. I do not accept assignments via e-mail, regardless of technical difficulties, unless I agree to it **in advance** This is an on-line course, and the work is done through Eagle Online 2 (EO2).
3. I do not recognize the legitimacy of extra credit. I do not offer it. Do not ask me for it.
4. I do not give Incompletes ("I").
5. You will be dropped for excessive absences. See the 12.5 rule in the **CLASS ATTENDANCE** section in the [Student Handbook](#). For on-line courses, this amounts to two (consecutive or non-consecutive) weeks of no activity.
6. I do not withdraw students. Being dropped for excessive absences is not the same as being withdrawn. Withdraws for personal, medical, etc. reasons are up to the student.

If you miss an assignment/discussion and you feel that you have COMPELLING reasons for your absence, then **you must fill out a Justification Form and hand it in to me. Justification forms can be found on my Learning Web page: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/daniel.flores1>.** If you meet the requirements on the form, I will allow a make-up. If you do not, I will not allow a make-up. For on-line courses, you must print out a copy of the form, fill it out, and you may either scan and e-mail it to me, or you may take pictures and e-mail it to me at the e-mail address at the top of this document. If you take pictures, make sure that it is not blurry and that I can read the information.

FILLING OUT THE JUSTIFICATION FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE ANYTHING. If it is filled out correctly, then I will simply consider your case. If it is not filled out correctly, then I will not consider your case.

Additional information on withdraws:

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", See Academic Calendar below. 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.

8. ACADEMIC HONESTY

DO NOT CHEAT! I actively look for cheating and plagiarizing and I will go to great lengths to find and document it!! There is absolutely no reason for it. The first time I catch you, you will simply fail the assignment, lose points, and receive a warning. The second time you cheat, **you will fail the course** and I will become very involved in pursuing the proper disciplinary action to the extent that HCC guidelines allow. 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/>

See my Learning Web page and the folder titled [GUIDES TO STUDYING PHILOSOPHY](#) for more info on writing

These are incredible sources of information. Spend some time studying them. Every college student should know this very basic information. There are simply no excuses for plagiarism!

9. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The HCC Disability Services 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.

10. ACADEMIC CALENDARS

<http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/summer/summer-1st-8-week/>

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

11. 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. <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/egls3/>

12. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. **Demonstrate 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.

13. SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK ONE (June 6—12): COURSE MATERIAL, BASIC LOGIC & ARGUMENTATION

1. Read and study: Syllabus, [GENERAL GRADING RUBRICS](#), [Instructor Welcome](#), [On Being A Good Student](#), [Justification Form](#)
2. "Philosophical Tools" by Nils Rauhut (Eagle Online)
3. "Fallacies" - <http://www.iep.utm.edu/fallacy/>
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ I (EO2)

WEEK TWO (June 13—19): ELEMENTS OF MORAL THEORY

4. "Ethics and the Examined Life" by Lewis Vaughn (Eagle Online)
5. "Ch. 5 - Introducing Moral Philosophy" by Prof. Dan Flores (Eagle Online)
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ II (EO2)

WEEK THREE (June 20—26): RELATIVISM

6. "Chapter 2: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism" by James Rachels (1941—2003)
<http://www3.canyons.edu/faculty/marianaj/RachelsCoCR.pdf> (opens as a .pdf)
7. "Moral Relativism is Unintelligible" by Julien Beillard
Copy and paste this into GOOGLE: **Moral Relativism is Unintelligible by Julien Beillard**
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ III (EO2)

WEEK FOUR (June 27—July3): CLASSICAL UTILITARIANISM & MID-TERM

8. "An Introduction To The Principles Of Morals And Legislation" by Jeremy Bentham (1748—1832)
http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bentham1780_1.pdf (Read Chapters 1, 3, & 4)
9. "Ch. 2 - What Is Utilitarianism?" by John Stuart Mill (1806—1873)
http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863_1.pdf (Read Ch. 2)
10. History of Utilitarianism
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/> (Read sections 2, 2.1, and 2.2)
MID-TERM (EO2)

WEEK FIVE (July 4—10): EGOISM

11. "Ethical Egoism" by James Rachels (1941—2003)
http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lawrence_blum/courses/306_09/readings/rachels_ethical.pdf
12. "Ethical Egoism and Psychological Dispositions" by Laurence Thomas
<http://www.laurencethomas.com/Egoism.pdf>
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ IV (EO2)

WEEK SIX (July 11—17): KANTIAN ETHICS (DEONTOLOGY)

13. "Chapter 1: Moving from common-sense knowledge to philosophical knowledge about morality" by Immanuel Kant
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfs/kant1785chapter1.pdf>
14. Summary of Kant:
<http://www.unc.edu/~gsmunc/phil22/Kantsum.pdf> (Read summary of Section One)
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ V (EO2)

WEEK SEVEN (July 18—24): CLASSICAL VIRTUE ETHICS (ARISTOTELIAN ETHICS)

15. *Nicomachean Ethics* by Aristotle
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html> (Read books I & II)
16. "Aristotle" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Read section 7)
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/aristotl/#H7>
ASSIGNMENT/QUIZ VI (EO2)

WEEK EIGHT (25—31): PLATO'S EUTHYPHRO & NATURAL LAW DIVINE COMMAND

17. <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1034793.files/Euthyphro.pdf>
18. "Plato's *Euthyphro*: an analysis and commentary" by P. Geach.
<http://www.philosophy.ed.ac.uk/documents/Geach%201966.pdf>
19. "The Natural Law Tradition in Ethics" - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/natural-law-ethics/> (read sections 1 - 1.3)
20. "Divine Command Theory" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/divine-c/> (Read at least through section 4)

FINAL EXAM (EO2)