

# PHIL 2306 (13713)

## INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS



### 1. CONTACT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Dan Flores

E-MAIL: [profdanflores@gmail.com](mailto: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, Honors College Lounge, Suite 110

My office is located in the Honors College Lounge, Suite 110. If you are facing the main building with the flag poles in front of you and Niko Niko's to your back, there will be an adjacent building to your left. In that building, the Honors Lounge is located between The Commons and The Science Building. There will be a single door with Suite 110 printed to the right of the door. The door has a security lock. Please call.

PHONE: 713.718.7465

### 2. STUDENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

a.) HCC 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](#) are extensions of this Syllabus.

**WHAT FOLLOWS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION.**

### 3. 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.

### 4. GRADED WORK

Reading Assessments (x5) .....	50 points (10 each)
Written Exam I .....	10 points
Written Exam II .....	15 points
Written Exam III .....	25 points
Total .....	100 points

EXAMS will be in-class, written. You will be given four to six exam questions one to two weeks before the exam to study for. On the day of the exam we will randomly draw two of the questions and those will be the questions everybody answers. I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR DETAIL AND FOR YOU TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL.

READING ASSESSMENTS will be turned in on-line in your Canvas shell for this course. We will be discussing Assessments in class.

EXAM RULES:

- There will be no entry to the class room after the exam has begun. **If you arrive after the exam has begun, then you forfeit the exam.** You will need to justify why you were late and why you should be able to make-up the exam. See (5.) below. You either show up to the exam on time, or you do not take it.
- Fancy devices face-down on the desk; bags, books, laptops, etc. closed and underneath your chairs/tables.
- Once the exam has begun, you may not leave. Prepare for the exam ahead of time by bringing your facial tissues with you, using the restroom before you come to the exam, etc..

- d. You may use ONLY one 4 x 6 index card (lined or unlined) for notes during the exam - not a half sheet of paper, not a 3 x 5 index card, not your note book, not another book, etc.. I will not grade your exam and you will receive a "0" if you use anything other than a 4 x 6 index card for notes. Of course, you don't have to use anything either.

## 5. ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UPS, AND GRADES

I will be taking attendance each day. For the entirety of the semester you can miss a total of 2 times for whatever reason (excused or unexcused) no Justification Form needed. After three absences, I will begin to reduce your overall grade by 1.5 points for each absence. Excused absences will not exclude you from the 2 absence-1.5 point reduction rule. Excused absences only let you make up the Written Exams if you miss it, not Reading Assessments.

If you feel that you have COMPELLING reasons for your absence, then you must fill out a Justification Form and hand it in to me in person no later than seven days after the missed exam. Justification form can be found [here](#). If I deem that you meet the requirements on the form, I will allow a make-up. If you do not, I will not allow a make-up. 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.

Please note the following:

1. I do not recognize the legitimacy of extra credit. I do not offer it. Please do not ask me for it.
2. I do not give Incompletes ("I") except under very rare and extenuating circumstances.
3. I do not withdraw students, even for absences. It is up to you to withdraw. But students' grades will drop with excessive absences (see 5. above.)

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. But, as noted, I very rarely give "I". Please do not count on this as an option.

## 6. ACADEMIC HONESTY

**DO NOT CHEAT! I actively look for cheating, collusion, and plagiarizing and I will go to great lengths to find and document it!!** There is absolutely no reason for it. It is expected that on-line students will do their assigned work (quizzes, tests, written, etc.) by themselves and without the aid of other students (unless directed to do so), friends, and family. 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 automatically 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 and the HCC Library's page on Plagiarism. THESE ARE VERY IMPORTANT RESOURCES.

1. <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/>  
(See, "Scholastic Dishonesty")
2. <http://library.hccs.edu/plagiarism/home>

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 no excuses for plagiarism.

## 7. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full

academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services.

If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision, physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodations, please contact the appropriate Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your Instructor's receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be requested at any time during the semester, however if an accommodation letter is provided to the Instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the Instructor to implement the accommodations.

#### **Ability Service Contact Information**

Central College 713.718.6164	Southeast College 713-718-7144
Coleman College 713-718-7376	Southwest College 713-718-5910
Northeast College 713-718-8322	AdaptiveEquipment/Assistive Technology 713-718-6629 713-718-5604
Northwest College 713-718-5422 713-718-5408	Interpreting and CART services 713-718-6333

#### 8. 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. <https://myeagle.hccs.edu/app/profile/login>

#### 9. ACADEMIC CALENDAR: <http://www.hccs.edu/student-experience/events-calendar/>

#### 10. 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.

#### 11. SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK ONE (Aug 27): **SYLLABUS, BASIC LOGIC**

1. "Philosophical Tools" by Nils Rauhut (Canvas)
2. "Fallacies" <http://www.iep.utm.edu/fallacy>

WEEK TWO (Sept. 3): **ELEMENTS OF MORAL THEORY**

**NO CLASSES ON MONDAY, SEPT. 3<sup>RD</sup>—LABOR DAY**

1. "Ethics and the Examined Life" by Lewis Vaughn (Canvas)  
**READING ASSESSMENT ONE DUE THURSDAY, CANVAS SUBMISSION**

WEEK THREE (Sept 10): **RELATIVISM**

1. "Chapter 2: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism" by James Rachels  
<http://www3.canyons.edu/faculty/marianaj/RachelsCoCR.pdf>
2. "Moral Relativism is Unintelligible" by Julien Beillard

Make sure you are using Google and copy and paste this into the search field: *Moral Relativism is Unintelligible by Julien Beillard*. It should be the first link.

## READING ASSESSMENT TWO DUE THURSDAY, CANVAS SUBMISSION

### WEEK FOUR (Sept 17): THE GOLDEN RULE

1. "Chapter 2: Why This Rule is Golden" by John C. Maxwell (Canvas)
2. "Golden Rule" by Harry Gensler (Canvas)
3. "The Not So Golden Rule" by Dan Flores (Canvas)

### WEEK FIVE (Sept 24): Review for Exam (Tuesday) & Exam (Thursday)

### WEEK SIX (Oct 1): CLASSICAL UTILITARIANISM

1. "An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation" by Jeremy Bentham  
[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bentham1780\\_1.pdf](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bentham1780_1.pdf) (read Ch.s 1, 3, & 4)
2. Chapter 2: "What Is Utilitarianism?" by John Stuart Mill  
[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863\\_1.pdf](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863_1.pdf) (read Ch. 2)
3. A History of Utilitarianism  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/> (read sections 2, 2.1, and 2.2)

### WEEK SEVEN (Oct 8): EGOISM

1. "Ethical Egoism" by James Rachels  
[http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lawrence\\_blum/courses/306\\_09/readings/rachels\\_ethical.pdf](http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lawrence_blum/courses/306_09/readings/rachels_ethical.pdf)
2. "Ethical Egoism and Psychological Dispositions" by Laurence Thomas  
<http://www.laurencethomas.com/Egoism.pdf>

## READING ASSESSMENT THREE DUE THURSDAY, CANVAS SUBMISSION

### WEEK EIGHT (Oct 15): DEONTOLOGY (KANTIAN ETHICS)

1. "Chapter 1: Moving from Common-Sense Knowledge ..." by Immanuel Kant  
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785chapter1.pdf>
2. Summary of Kant  
<http://www.unc.edu/~gsmunc/phil22/Kantsum.pdf> (Read summary of Section One)

### WEEK NINE (Oct 22): CLASSICAL VIRTUE ETHICS

1. *Nicomachean Ethics* by Aristotle  
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html> (Read books I & II)
2. "Aristotle" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy  
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/aristotl/#H7>

## READING ASSESSMENT FOUR DUE THURSDAY, CANVAS SUBMISSION

### WEEK TEN (Oct 29): Review for Exam (Tuesday) & Exam (Thursday)

### WEEK ELEVEN (Nov 5): PLATO'S EUTHYPHRO

1. <http://sites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1034793.files/Euthyphro.pdf>
2. "Euthyphro, Philosophers, and Uncertainty" by Dan Flores
3. "Plato's *Euthyphro*: an analysis and commentary" by P. Geach.  
<http://www.philosophy.ed.ac.uk/documents/Geach%201966.pdf>

### WEEK TWELVE (Nov 12): NATURAL LAW & DIVINE COMMAND

1. "The Natural Law Tradition in Ethics" - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/natural-law-ethics/> (read sections 1 - 1.3)
2. "Divine Command Theory" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy  
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/divine-c/>

## READING ASSESSMENT FIVE DUE THURSDAY, CANVAS SUBMISSION

### WEEK THIRTEEN (Nov 19): RIGHTS, JUSTICE, & THE ETHICS OF BUSINESS

1. "Chapter 3: Justice and Economic Distribution" by William Shaw (Canvas)
2. "Is There a Right to Health Care and, If So, What Does It Encompass?" by Norman Daniels  
[http://public.callutheran.edu/~chenxi/Phil315\\_092.PDF](http://public.callutheran.edu/~chenxi/Phil315_092.PDF)

### WEEK FOURTEEN (Nov 26): FINISHING UP

### WEEK FIFTEEN (Dec 3): FINISHING UP & REVIEW FOR EXAM III

### WEEK SIXTEEN (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>): EXAM III, 11:00AM—1:00PM, Same Room