

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

PHIL 2306 (88786 & 89189)

Spring 2016
Regular Term

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, 900N; Hours: TBA

The second set of double doors to the right of the 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: Mon./Wed., Spring Branch, Room 711

88786 @ 9:30 – 11:00

89189 @ 11:00 – 12:30

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a theoretically diverse introduction to the study of ideas, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. The basis for this inquiry is drawn from history, theories, their application, methods of reasoning, and carried forward to more recent thinkers and issues. (HCC Catalog). Included is the growing emergence of women's, minority, and non-western voices in philosophy. Accordingly, this course should not be construed as history-bound, or strictly western in its perspective. Its thematic elements are contemporary, including the nature and abiding presence of philosophizing in human discourse, and this discipline's impact on current developments in science, the humanities, and political/social order in world cultures.

3. 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.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION.

4. TEXT AND READINGS

All readings will be provided for you via my Learning Web page. It is password protected. I will reveal the password during class.

5. GRADED WORK

Exam I 30 points

Exam II 30 points

Exam II 40 points

Total 100 points

EXAMS will be in-class, written. There will be several questions. I expect that you should be able to write one to two paragraphs 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. EXAM I will cover everything from the beginning of class (including the Syllabus, [Instructor Welcome](#), [On Being A Good Student](#), & [Justification Form](#) up to the exam. Exam II will cover everything after EXAM I up until the exam. And EXAM III will cover everything after EXAM II up until

EXAM III. It is up to you to keep up with the material. Read my "[On Being A Good Student](#)" located on my Learning Web page.

EXAM RULES:

1. 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 (6.) below.** You either show up to the exam on time, or you do not take it.
2. Fancy devices face-down on the desk; bags, books, laptops, etc. closed and underneath your chairs/tables.
3. No hats (with the exception of hijabs, yarmulkes, and other religious attire), earphones, earbuds, water bottles, cups, or anything other than your exam, a pen or pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, & note card.
4. Once the exam has begun, you may not leave – bring your facial tissues with you, use the restroom before you come to the exam, etc. Prepare for the exam ahead of time.
5. You may use ONLY a 4 x 6 index card (lined or unlined) for notes - 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.

6. ATTENDANCE & MAKE-UPS

I will take attendance each day. If you are present when I call your name, then I mark you "present." If you are not present or do not respond, then I mark you "absent." If you were present, but fail to respond to my calling your name and come to me after, I will change your "absent" to "late." Likewise, if you actually walk in late, come to me after class and I will mark you "late." Any "absent" or "late" assignment will be considered "unexcused" until you have **properly filled out** a Justification Form and I have approved it.

If you wish to have any of your "unexcused" absences or tardies converted into "excused," then you must **properly fill out** the [Justification Form](#) found on my Learning Web page. You will have one week (seven days including weekends) to get me the Justification Form. Note: it must be handed to me physically, in class, by you or somebody else.

You will be dropped for excessive absences. See the 12.5 rule in the **CLASS ATTENDANCE** section in the [Student Handbook](#). This amounts to four classes, excused or unexcused.

There are no make-ups or alternate exam dates for EXAM III.

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. 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. Do not ask me for it.
2. I do not give Incompletes ("I").
3. I do not withdraw students. It is up to you to withdraw. (Being dropped for an absence is not the same thing as being withdrawn.)

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.

7. 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!

8. 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.

9. ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

10. 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/>

11. 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.

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

WEEK ONE (Jan. 18–22): INTRODUCTIONS

1. Monday – no classes. MLK Day.
2. Syllabus, Justification Form, Instructor Welcome, General Housekeeping.

WEEK TWO (Jan. 25–29): HOW TO ANSWER THE EXAM, BASIC LOGIC AND ARGUMENTATION

3. Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (Read sections 5.6–5.641)
<http://people.umass.edu/phil335-klement-2/tlp/tlp-ebook.pdf>

4. Understanding the Text
5. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable answers
6. "Ch. 2 – Philosophical Tools" by Nils Rauhut (Learning Web)

WEEK THREE (Feb. 1–5): ELEMENTS OF MORAL THEORY

7. "Ethics and the Examined Life" by Lewis Vaughn (Learning Web)
8. "Ch. 5: Introducing Moral Philosophy" by Prof. Dan Flores (Learning Web)

WEEK FOUR (Feb. 8–12): RELATIVISM

9. "Chapter 2: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism" by James Rachels
<http://www3.canyons.edu/faculty/marianaj/RachelsCoCR.pdf>
10. "Moral Relativism is Unintelligible" by Julien Beillard. Using the **Google** search engine, copy and paste this: **Moral Relativism is Unintelligible by Julien Beillard**. It should be the first link.
11. Review

WEEK FIVE (Feb. 15–19): EXAM I

12. Monday – no classes. Presidents' Day.

13. EXAM I – Wednesday

WEEK SIX (Feb. 22–26): THE GOLDEN RULE

14. "Chapter 2: Why This Rule is Golden" by John C. Maxwell (Learning Web)

15. "Golden Rule" by Harry Gensler (Learning Web)

WEEK SEVEN (Feb. 29–Mar. 4): CLASSICAL UTILITARIANISM

16. "An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation" by Jeremy Bentham

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/bentham1780_1.pdf (read Ch.s 1, 3, & 4)

17. Chapter 2: What Is Utilitarianism?" by John Stuart Mill

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863_1.pdf (read Ch. 2)

18. A History of Utilitarianism

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/> (read sections 2, 2.1, and 2.2)

WEEK SIX (Sept 28-Oct 2): EGOISM

19. "Ethical Egoism" by James Rachels

http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lawrence_blum/courses/306_09/readings/rachels_ethical.pdf

20. "Ethical Egoism and Psychological Dispositions" by Laurence Thomas

<http://www.laurencethomas.com/Egoism.pdf>

WEEK EIGHT (Mar. 7–11): DEONTOLOGY (KANTIAN ETHICS)

21. "Chapter 1: Moving from Common-Sense Knowledge ..." by Immanuel Kant

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785chapter1.pdf>

22. Summary of Kant

<http://www.unc.edu/~gsmunc/phil22/Kantsum.pdf> (Read summary of Section One)

SPRING BREAK (Mar. 14–18)



WEEK NINE (Mar. 21–25): REVIEW & EXAM II

23. Review

24. EXAM II – Wednesday

WEEK ELEVEN (Apr. 4–8): CLASSICAL VIRTUE ETHICS

25. *Nicomachean Ethics* by Aristotle

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html> (Read books I & II)

26. "Aristotle" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Read section 7)

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/aristotl/#H7>

WEEK TWELVE (Apr. 11–15): PLATO'S EUTHYPHRO

27. <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic1034793.files/Euthyphro.pdf>

28. "Plato's *Euthyphro*: an analysis and commentary" by P. Geach.

<http://www.philosophy.ed.ac.uk/documents/Geach%201966.pdf>

WEEK THIRTEEN (Apr. 18–22): NATURAL LAW & DIVINE COMMAND

29. "The Natural Law Tradition in Ethics" - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/natural-law-ethics/> (read sections 1 - 1.3)

30. "Divine Command Theory" - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/divine-c/> (Read at least through section 4)

WEEK FOURTEEN (Apr. 25–29): RIGHTS, JUSTICE, & THE ETHICS OF BUSINESS

31. "Chapter 3: Justice and Economic Distribution" by William Shaw (Learning Web)

WEEK FIFTEEN (May 2–5): FINISHING UP & REVIEW

WEEK SIXTEEN (May 9–12): EXAM III

88786 – Monday, May 9 @ 9:00 a.m., Room 711

89189 – Monday, May 9 @ 11:00 a.m., Room 711