

Syllabus
PHILOSOPHY 2303 (32401) – Symbolic Logic
SPRING 2013 (16 Weeks) – HCC, Northwest

PART I – COURSE INFORMATION

Professor Dan Flores

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This is by far the best way to get a hold of me outside of class and office hours. **Please be sure to give me your name and class period either in the Subject line or in the body of your email.** You will still need to maintain and access your HCC e-mail. Note that you can always set your HCC email to forward any messages to any valid email account you wish.

Office: Spring Branch Campus
Room 900N, Monday/Wednesday, 12-1:50 and by appointment
713.718.7465

Meeting Place and Times:

Katy Campus: (32430) TuTh, 11a.m.—12:30p.m., Room 347, Jan 14-May 12, 2013

PART II – COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Course Description:

Nature and methods of clear and critical thinking and methods of reasoning such as deduction, induction, scientific reasoning, and fallacies. (Texas ACGM – Approval Number: 38.0101.5212)

An introduction to Symbolic Logic, focusing on both Propositional and Predicate Logic, emphasizing the rules of translating language into symbols, the rules of inference and replacement, and the mechanism of reasoning used by computers. (HCCS Catalog). Fulfills State of Texas CORE Mathematics requirement (Check transfer institution requirements). HCC Elective.

Course Goals:

This course settles on the technical side of deductive reasoning and its correct applications for the construction and testing of formal symbolized arguments. Students learn how to recognize and analyze the intricacies of relational meaning in language while they acquire the tools to best express such meaning in a systematically ordered, clear, and concise fashion.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The Philosophy Program Committee at HCC has identified five student learning outcomes (SLOs) for each course within the Philosophy Program. The intended outcomes for Philosophy 1301 are that students will:

1. **Recall and Identify** the core components of articulated meaning understood from a logical perspective, both classical and contemporary.
2. **Construct arguments** using English sentences, then Interpret sentences in a manner that preserves their precise *truth value* when translated into *standard form*.
3. **Apply “Truth Table” method** to arguments in order to determine whether valid, or not-valid, then Articulate the understanding that Truth Tables provide for distinguishing between kinds of truth-functional statements, and sets of statements, *logical equivalence*, and *logical implication*.
4. **Apply the rules of inference** and replacement rules to Construct justified proofs of symbolic arguments, then Implement methods of conditional and indirect proof, including the proof of theorems.
5. **Construct proofs** in predicate logic that Incorporate the quantification of complex subjects and predicates.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with documented disabilities will be provided all reasonable accommodations. An accommodations request from the campus HCCS ADA counselor is required for documentation.

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office, and to do so in a reasonable manner.

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, then scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college.

District ADA Coordinator - Donna Price - 713.718.5165

Northwest ADA Counselor - Mahnaz Kolaini - 713.718.5422



Academic Honesty:

The HCCS Student Handbook lists acts of cheating, plagiarism, and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines plagiarism as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit." It defines collusion as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit." Possible punishments are "a grade of „0' or „F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System" See the Student Handbook.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies:

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 IF, FOR ANY REASON, THAT STUDENT IS NO LONGER ATTENDING. NEW RULES ARE IN EFFECT THAT GREATLY CHANGE HOW AND WHEN THAT CAN BE DONE. YOU WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM THIS COURSE BY YOUR PROFESSOR. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE POSSIBLE PENALTIES OTHER THAN LOSING ONE'S PAID TUITION THAT EVERY STUDENT MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE WITHDRAWING. THESE INCLUDE:

- (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", which for Summer 2012 is Monday, June 25, 2012 at 4:30 pm. 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". Your instructor will not withdraw you for non-attendance and will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student.

PART II – INSTRUCTOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

THE FOLLOWING IS A TENTATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AND SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS. ALL DATES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND PROCEDURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON CLASS NEED AND INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION. STUDENTS WILL BE DULY INFORMED OF ANY SUCH CHANGES.

Textbooks:

We will be reading through a rough draft of **John Symons' book "Logic and Reason"** (under contract with McGraw-Hill). I will post .pdf files of the chapters on my Learning Web site (http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/daniel.flores1?force_web) under a file titled READINGS – PHIL 2303 Symbolic Logic.

Attendance, Absences, & Make-ups:

I will keep daily attendance through the census date: **Monday, January 28th**. After this I may take attendance periodically. I will not reduce pointage for absences (see the next paragraph for my position on missing class). I do not drop students for personal or academic reasons; for instance, if you are failing, absences, etc. If you wish to drop due to personal or academic reasons, then this is your responsibility. I will drop you from a class if you are disruptive, however. See below. You must keep up with your grades.

But note that there are severe difficulties with not attending class on a regular basis. It is a popular idea that philosophy and 'doing philosophy' is simply a matter of one's opinion about or how one feels about some subject. This cannot be further from the truth. This course has nothing to do with your opinion and I will rarely ask you for your opinion. You are here to understand and properly interpret certain material. This being said, the material covered in this course is generally difficult and requires your intellectual attention during and outside of class. You are expected to come to class every day having read the assignment ahead of time. Lectures are intended to help students understand the reading assignments and to begin clarifying and working out ideas and arguments. **Not spending time studying and attending class will only diminish the quality of your work.** It is easy to be lazy, watch TV, shop, do laundry, nap, not pay attention in class by sleeping, texting, talking, and so on, or getting caught up in any number of activities rather than doing one's schoolwork. I urge you to take responsibility for yourselves and your work. This is college and you will be treated as a college student

I will allow **Mid-term make-up exams but not Assignments** during the second-to-last week of the semester (Week 14). I will have a sign-up sheet. If I allow you to make-up an exam, then you may take the make-up at anytime in the Testing Center during Week 14, during their normal operating hours. You will need to make an appointment with the Testing Center twenty-four hours in advance before you can take the exam. No exceptions. Please do not ask me for one.

Make-ups are allowed provided that they are **excused**. Excused absences include: **a)** any absence that I have approved, **b)** observance of religious holy days, **c)** required court appearances, **d)** naturalization and oath ceremonies, **e)** emergency and other health problems of student or student's family that require treatment, hospitalization, or other types of care not allowing a student to be in class, **f)** official school business such as team meeting, performances (where student is a performer!), and other events where the student's presence and participation is required for the success of the event or by terms of agreement. **ALL EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL REQUIRE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION** such as a letter from a court magistrate requiring your court appearance on the day and time of exam; a letter from a doctor or other professional health care provider explaining your absence on the day and time of the exam; a letter from a coach or director of an official HCC or high school event explaining your

absence on the day and time of the exam; and so on. **IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE ME WITH THE DOCUMENTATION BEFORE YOU TAKE THE MAKE-UP, THEN I WILL NOT RECORD A GRADE AND YOU WILL LOSE THE POINTS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT! THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. YOU HAVE AN ENTIRE SEMESTER TO PROVIDE THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION.**

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, oversleeping/alarm failure, needing sleep or rest, missing the bus/ride, car trouble, needed at home/babysitting, employment/job interview, shopping/errands, personal grooming appointments (hair, nails, tanning, etc), driver's education (classroom or behind the wheel), vacations, personal time, etc.

Behavior: Please be respectful of me and others while class is in session. Please silence all phones, beepers, and other noisy status symbols. Laptops/notebooks are welcome for note taking, but surfing the internet, watching movies/videos, or any other disruptive behavior (**this includes sleeping!!**) during lecture is not. If you wish to use a laptop or other device during class for note taking, recording, or other activity that is directly relevant to the course work, then you must see me for approval. **IF I HAVE TO ASK YOU MORE THAN TWICE NOT TO TEXT, SURF, CHECK MESSAGES, OR ANYTHING ELSE, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND I WILL CONSIDER DROPPING YOU. HINT: if it distracts me or other students, it is disruptive behavior. See HCC's policy on prohibited behavior:**

<http://www.hccs.edu/hcc/images/home%20page%20images/0-2011-2012%20Student%20handbook.pdf>

DO NOT CHEAT! The first time I catch you, you will simply fail the assignment, lose points, and receive a warning. If you continue to cheat (in any form), 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. (opens as a .pdf file)

<http://www.hccs.edu/hcc/images/home%20page%20images/0-2011-2012%20Student%20handbook.pdf>

See the following for additional information on plagiarism:

http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html

Grading:

Exam 1	20pts
Exam 2	20pts
Exam 3.....	20pts
Exam 4.....	20pts
Exam 5.....	20pts
Exam 6.....	20pts
Exam 7.....	20pts
Exam 8.....	20pts
Total Points	160pts

A = 160-144pts, B = 143-128pts, C = 127-112pts, D = 111-96pts, F = 95-0pts

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week One

Jan 15 – Covering the Syllabus
Jan 17 – “Chapter 1: From Common Sense to Formal Reasoning” by John Symons

Week Two

Jan 22 – Ibid.
Jan 24 – Quiz I

Week Three

Jan 29 – “Chapter 2: Argument Analysis” from Logic and Reason by John Symons
Jan 31 – Ibid.

Week Four

Feb 5 – Quiz II
Feb 7 – “Chapter 3: Argument Patterns and Decision-Making” from Logic and Reason by John Symons

Week Five

Feb 12 – Ibid.
Feb 14 – Quiz III

Week Six

Feb 19 – “Chapter 4”
Feb 21 – Ibid.

Week Seven

Feb 26 – Ibid.

Feb 28 – Quiz IV

Week Eight

Mar 5 – “Chapter 5

Mar 7 – Ibid.

Week Nine

Mar 12 – **NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK**

Mar 14 – **NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK**

Week Ten

Mar 19 – Ibid.

Mar 21 – Quiz V

Week Eleven

Mar 26 – Chapter 6

Mar 28 – Ibid.

Week Twelve

Apr 2 – Ibid.

Apr 4 – Quiz VI

Week Thirteen

Apr 9 – Chapter 7

Apr 11 – Ibid.

Week Fourteen

Apr 16 – Ibid.

Apr 18 – Quiz VII

Week Fifteen

Apr 23 – Chapter 8

Apr 25 – Ibid.

Week Sixteen

Apr 30 – Ibid.

May 2 – Review

Final Exam Week

May 7 – FINAL QUIZ – Quiz VIII

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

http://www.hccs.edu/hcc/System%20Home/Departments/Admissions_and_Registration/Calendars/Spring%202013/Spring%202013-%20Regular%2016%20Week%20Semester.pdf