

Houston Community College System
COURSE SYLLABUS Summer 2014
Introduction to Philosophy 1301
CRN 12528 Summer I: 6/2–7/1/2014

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Office: Distance Education
CRN: 12528

Instructional Materials: Required Texts:

Grube // *Plato: Five Dialogues*
Hackett Publishing, Second Edition, 2002
ISBN 978-0-87220-633-5

Descartes, Rene // *Discourse On Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*
Hackett Publishing Fourth Edition, 1999
ISBN 0-87220-420-0

Atherton, Katherine, ED // *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*
Hackett Publishing, 1994
ISBN 0-87220-259-3

Sartre, Jean-Paul // *Existentialism and Human Emotions*
Citadel Press-Kensington Publishing, 1987
ISBN 0806509023

Carder: **Questions: A Primer in Philosophy**
(Provided free for download on course website)

Recommended Additional Sources (NOT REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE):

Curd, Patricia // *A Pre-Socratic Reader*
Hackett Publishing, First Edition, 1996
ISBN 0-87220-326-3

Irwin, Fine // *ARISTOTLE Introductory Readings*
Hackett Publishing, 1996
ISBN 0-87220-339-5

Augustine // *Against the Academicians and the Teacher*
Hackett Publishing First Edition, 1995
ISBN 0-87220-212-7

Heidegger, Martin // *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*
Harper Collins Publishers, Incorporated, First Edition, 1977
ISBN 0-16131-969-4

Course Description: Core curriculum course: Introduction to the study of ideas and their logical structure, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. Includes introduction to the history, theories, and methods of reasoning. (Texas ACGM – Approval Number: 38.0101.51 12)

This course is 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 Catalog) CORE

Course Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed or be co-enrolled in Engl1301

Course Goal: The basis for this inquiry is drawn from history, theories, their application, methods of reasoning, and carried forward to more recent thinkers and issues. 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.

Course Program Learning Outcomes (PSLO):

- 1.1 **Acquire** a broad familiarity with the names of major thinkers, the schools they represent, geographical location, and historical periods.
- 1.2 **Learn** historically significant questions of philosophy, definitions of special terms, and concepts of knowledge, ethics, and human condition.
- 2.1 **Cultivate** reading comprehension of philosophical writings.
- 2.2 **Distinguish** various approaches to interpretation, including conceptual analysis, testing for validity, determining if sound or not sound.
- 3.1 **Articulate** the relevance of philosophy and philosophical questioning to everyday life.
- 3.2 **Consider** how philosophy may or may not apply to differing ways of thinking and cultural influences.
- 4.1 **Inventory, Summarize, and Assess** correlative questions, concepts, and schools of thought found in the history of ideas.
- 5.1 **Create and cultivate** alternative philosophical positions on presented course content.
- 5.2 **Develop coherent arguments** for chosen positions, bringing to bear the rules of logic, written expression and disciplined thinking.
- 5.3 **Critique** chosen positions and adequately **Defend** against possible objections, both theoretical and applied.

Course (Student) Learning Outcomes:

1. **Recall and Identify** the major thinkers, schools, core philosophical questions, terms and concepts found in the history of ideas cross-culturally construed, from ancient times to the contemporary world.
2. **Interpret and Explain** core philosophical questions and concepts in terms that illustrate a comprehensive understanding of each.
3. **Apply** core philosophical questions and concepts to contemporary issues and personal experience.
4. **Compare and Contrast** related core philosophical questions and concepts, and the correlative thinkers and schools with which they are commonly associated.
5. **Justify** a sound philosophical position on a topic, or topics of contemporary human interest in the areas of knowledge, ethics, or human condition that **Integrates** and **Logically Demonstrates a Synthesis** in thought.

SCANS Skills:

Texas Colleges must demonstrate that the Basic Intellectual Core Competencies are incorporated into all Core courses. This course addresses the competencies in the following ways:

Reading: The Textbook, alternative web sites, and the readers will provide the basis for Section Exams, Chapter Essays, and the Final Exam.

Writing: Students will write all responses to their selected Chapter Essays, and will conduct most communication with the instructor through the typewritten word. Students will write two historical research papers and answer essay questions.

Critical Thinking: Many of the Chapter Essays and essay questions on the Final Exam will contain questions and problems that will require higher-level, "critical" thinking skills to solve successfully.

Computer Literacy: Web-based courses require significant computer literacy from the students, who must be proficient at navigating the web, sending and receiving Email, participating in threaded discussions, and using online testing procedure. Students must attend a DE orientation session and log in on time to avoid being dropped by the instructor.

List of Instructional Methods: This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Blackboard Vista*. The HCC *Blackboard Vista* logon page is: <http://hccs.blackboard.com>

Program/Discipline Requirements: Program/Discipline Requirements: If applicable DISCIPLINE REQUIREMENTS for this course include required adopted texts and required choices of assessment tools for assessing course SLOs using discipline created standard form rubrics. All SLOs are to be addressed over the length of this course. Additionally, the following Discipline notices and information are to be

HCC Policy Statements:

- 1. ADA: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** - any student with a documented disability, (i.e. physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, 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 services office. The counselor for Southeast College can be reached at 713 718-7218.
- 2. Academic Dishonesty:** includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes: copying from another student test paper; using materials not authorized by the person giving the test, collaborating with another student during a test without authorization; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the content of a test that has not been administered; and/or bringing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit. In an essay, it means copying word by word what authors have written without giving credit (more than two words per sentence) or quoting. Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty include a grade of 0 or F, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the college system.
- 3. Children on Campus:** no children are allowed in the classrooms.
- 4. Student Attendance:** You are expected to attend all assigned lectures (and labs if applicable) regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Notify your instructor by phone or email, but it is your responsibility to contact him/her. Class attendance is checked daily. If you are absent more than 6 hrs. Without an acceptable excuse, you may be dropped by your instructor. Although it is your responsibility to drop the course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences. If you do not drop, but stop attending, you may receive a grade of F at the end of the semester.
- 5. HCC Course Withdrawal Policy** - Beginning fall 2007, the State of Texas imposes penalties on

students who drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university.

6. Incomplete Policy (example)

A student who at the end of the semester has an emergency can obtain an incomplete only when he/she is missing only 1 assignment (which could be the final test). An acceptable excuse must be turned in to the instructor.

Other Policies: Please check the Student Handbook for other policies

DE Classes: To help you avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, contact your DE professor regarding your academic performance. You may also want to contact your DE counselor to learn about helpful HCC resources (e.g. online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc.). HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and DE counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.

Students should check HCC’s Academic Calendar by Term for drop/withdrawal dates and deadlines.

If a student decides to drop or withdraw from a class upon careful review of other options, the student can drop online prior to the deadline through their HCC Student Service Center:

<https://hccsaweb.hccs.edu:8080/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG> Classes of other duration (mini-term, flex-entry, 8-weeks, etc.) may have different final withdrawal deadlines. Please contact the HCC Registrar’s Office at 713.718.8500 to determine mini-term class withdrawal deadlines.

Withdrawal Deadline: It is your responsibility to withdraw officially from a class and prevent an “F” from appearing on your transcript. When considering withdrawal from a course, remember that:

- No grade is given and your transcript reflects no record of the course if you withdraw before the Official Date of Record.
- A “W” (indicating withdrawal) appears on your transcript if you drop a course after the Official Date of Record and before the final deadline.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course, it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Since January 1, 2003, International Students are restricted in the number of distance education courses that they may take during each semester. ONLY ONE online/distance education class may be counted towards the enrollment requirement for International Students per semester. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Student Course Reinstatement Policy: Students have a responsibility to arrange payment for their classes when they register, either through cash, credit card, financial aid, or the installment plan. Faculty members have a responsibility to check their class rolls regularly, especially during the early weeks of a term, and reconcile the official class roll to ensure that no one is attending class whose name does not appear on the rolls. Students who are dropped from their courses for non-payment of tuition and fees, who request reinstatement after the official date of record (OE date), can be reinstated by making payment in full and paying an additional \$75 per course reinstatement fee. A student requesting reinstatement should present the registrar with a completed Enrollment Authorization Form with the signature of the instructor, the department chair, or the dean, who should verify that the student has been regularly attending class. Students who are reinstated are responsible for all course policies and procedures, including attendance requirements. A dean may waive the reinstatement fee upon determination that the student was dropped because of a college error. The dean should note the nature of the error in a memo to the registrar with the appropriate documentation.

“This syllabus is meant as a guide and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. If there are any changes made, the student will be notified in a timely manner.”

HCC Grading Criteria:

90-100 points A
 80-89 points B
 70-79 points C
 60-69 points D
 Under 60 points F

Philosophy Houston Community College Student Assignments

1. Weekly Discussion Forum 30%: One weekly online forum discussion question will be posted each week, which will be based upon the week's readings and lecture notes provided online. Forums open each Sunday at 8 a.m. and close each Saturday at 11 p.m. Forum discussion questions will not be reopened for any reason after closing.

In addition to content, criteria for online forum grading is as follows:

200 words or more with correct content: A
 150-199 words with correct content: B
 100-149 words with correct content: C
 50-99 words with correct content: D
 0-49 words: F

2. Weekly Quizzes (30%): The student will take a weekly online time-limited (50 minutes) quiz based on the weekly readings and lecture notes provided online. Quizzes open each Sunday at 8 a.m. and close each Saturday at 11 p.m. Quizzes will not be reopened for any reason after closing.

2. Unit Examinations (40%): The student will take two (mid-term and final) major online time-limited exams (60 minutes) based on weekly readings and lecture notes provided online. Make up examinations will be essay format, graded on content and grammatical form and require professor permission.

Introduction to Philosophy 1301

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Summer I Schedule: 5 Weeks

Week 1: June 2-7:

What is Philosophy?
 Epistemology

Week 2: June 8-14

Metaphysics
 Ethics

Week 3: June 15-21:

Mid-Term (Date TBD): What is Philosophy; Epistemology; Metaphysics; Ethics
 Philosophy of Religion

Week 4: June 22-28

Political Philosophy
 Aesthetics

Week 5: June 29-July 7

Final Exam (Date TBD): Philosophy of Religion; Political Philosophy; Aesthetics

Additional Important Dates:

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| Instruction Begins: | 6/2/2014 |
| Instruction Ends: | 7/1/2014 |
| Final Examinations: | 7/2-7/6/2014 |
| Semester Ends: | 7/6/2014 |
| Grades Due by Noon: | 7/7/2014 |