



**Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences
Philosophy Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/>

Phil 2306: Introduction to Ethics | Lecture | #17289

Semester 2021 | 16 Weeks (1/19-5/16/2021)

Online | Canvas | Asynchronous

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. John O. Soden	Office Phone:
Office: Online/Webex	Office Hours: TBA
HCC Email: john.soden@hccs.edu	Office Location: Webex

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

Please utilize email: john.soden@hccs.edu. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages during the work week M-F.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

ENGL 1301

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 2306 will use [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. Office Hours and Meetings will occur via Webex.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

ISBN: 978-0-19-063131-4

The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems (TEL), Author: SHAFER-LANDAU, Publisher: OXF, Edition: 4TH (Anthology)

Other Instructional Resources

Additional Book(s) and Materials:

- **Course handouts for class readings**
- Research materials for paper, primary source materials (subject to approval for Final Paper).
 - o Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<https://plato.stanford.edu/>) and online peer-reviewed encyclopedia. Great for research and for finding relevant descriptions of topics, philosophers, philosophies, political theory and many other branches of philosophy.
 - o Other resources:
 - There are also some general resources on the web that you might find helpful. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu>
 - <http://projectvox.org/about-the-project/> (a project started at Duke University to include early modern Female philosophers into modern philosophical discussions.
 - Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu> (Both these encyclopedias contain reliable in-depth discussions of the philosophers and topics we will be studying.)
 - Philosophy Pages: <http://www.philosophypages.com> (A source containing a variety of things, most notably a Philosophical Dictionary)
 - Philosophy on the EServer: <http://philosophy.eserver.org/default.htm> (A site containing original texts, critical articles, and—philosophical humor! The latter includes jokes (some not very funny), songs, poems, satires, cartoons, and proofs that *p*.)

- YouTube contains numerous short interviews with and about philosophers. See: '[Philosopher Interviews](#)'

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Overview

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. 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.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Philosophy, Language, and Culture component area or the Component Area Option in the HCC Core Curriculum. If you are not sure that you need this course to graduate, please consult with your advisor.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Demonstrate knowledge and 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.
5. Apply relevant ethical theories to daily activities, and to issues in contemporary debates.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Read** canonical texts and contemporary articles in the philosophical tradition of ethics.
- 1.2 Analyze, discuss, and critique** philosophical texts and ethical questions through open annotation exercises, papers, and discussion forums.
- 1.3 Analyze and critique** philosophical texts and practical ethical questions in papers and tests.
- 2.1 Learn** basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in philosophical ethics.
- 2.2 Recognize** key concepts in regular quizzes.
- 2.3 Demonstrate understanding** of key arguments and claims made by philosophers studied in the course through papers and assignments.
- 3 Present** logically persuasive arguments in papers and tests.
- 4.1 Engage** in critical thinking through discussion forums, papers, and tests.

4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in all written work.

5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility in papers and discussion forums.

5.2 Apply philosophical concepts discussed in the course to personal and contemporary issues, demonstrating a concern for social and personal responsibility in written work.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities
- Communication and asking questions

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide. And hard work.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online session
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with Dr. Soden
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment, Exams,

Your grade will be determined by the following	Details	Percent of Final Average
Exams	There will be a midterm and Final. Both in-class and handwritten essays.	25%
Quizzes/Socratic Discussion	Regular in-class Socratic dialogues showing comprehension of philosophers and philosophies being studied. Reading Log.	25%
Essays: Paper #1 and Paper #2	Each Unit will have a capstone reflection essay of 2 pages. A 7-10 page research essay addressing a philosophical tradition and/or philosopher.	25%
Discussions/Class participation/attendance	Your faithful participation and timeliness with your coursework, regular class presence and attitude in class will impact your grade. In-Class Journaling exercises.	25%
Total:		100%

In-Class Activities

See chart above

Final Exam

Will occur the last week during Finals Week

Grading Formula

Incomplete Policy:

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Incomplete Policy:

In order to be considered for a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 75% of the coursework. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor or to submit requisite work to complete the course and be assigned a grade. Student and instructor should execute a statement of work to be completed. A grade of incomplete which has not been made up after six months from the end of the term in which the "I" was assigned will be converted to an "F." In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Withdrawal Policy:

Students may withdraw themselves on or before the withdrawal date. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course. If students stop attending the class and don't withdraw by this date, they are subject to the FX grading policy. Instructors cannot withdraw students after the withdrawal date.

Course Calendar (Reading Log)

Begin Date/Week	Topic	Pages/Readings	Assignment	Date Completed
Jan 18	MLK Holiday	No Work Due		
Jan 19 Week 1	Welcome, The Ethics of Ethics, Moral Problems	TEL (Appiah), 225-229.	Syllabus Survey Journal/Study Guide Welcome Discussion	
Jan 25 Week 2	The Good Life, Hedonism and Utilitarianism	TEL (Mill), 11-20 & (Nozick), 21-24	Journal/Study Guide	
Feb 1 Week 3	Desire Theory	TEL (Heathwood, Hooker, Wolf), 25-36, 37-52, 53-74	Journal/Study Guide	
Feb 8 Week 4	Morality, Religion & Natural Law	TEL (Thomson, Marguis), 333-345, 346-356.	Journal/Study Guide	
Feb 15	Presidents Day	No Work Due		
Feb 16 Week 5	Egoism	TEL, 131-142 (Ross)	Journal/Study Guide	
Feb 22 Week 6	Consequentialism	TEL, 97-106 (Mill)	Journal/Study Guide	
Mar 1 Week 7	Care & Doing the Right Thing	TEL, 155-167, 208-221 (Lindemann, Enoch)	Journal/Study Guide Paper #1 (Draft)	
Mar 8 Week 8	Poverty/Hunger & ecology	TEL, 252-256, 317-330 (Singer, Hill)	Journal/Study Guide Paper #1 (Due) Midterm	
Mar 15-21	Spring Break	No Work Due		
Mar 22 Week 9	Racism, Justice & Virtue (Part 1)	TEL, 411-416, 446-464, 143-154 (Lebron, Anderson, Aristotle)	Journal/Study Guide	
Mar 29 Week 10	Racism, Justice & Virtue (Part 2)	Cont.		
Apr 2-4	Spring Holiday	No Work Due		
Apr 5 Week 11	Abortion	TEL, 333-344, 346-354 (Thomson, Marguis)	Discussion Journal/Study Guide	
Apr 12 Week 12	Euthanasia	TEL, 252-257, 258-266 (Rachels, Harris)	Journal/Study Guide Paper #2 Proposal	
Apr 19 Week 13	Continued			
Apr 26 Week 14	Your Choice	Moral Status of Animals, Drugs, Copyright Infringement, Guns, The Environment	Discussion Journal/Study Guide Paper #2 (Draft)	
May 3 Week 15	Continued		Paper #2 (Due)	
May 10-16	Finals Week			

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

Please communicate with Instructor regarding any missed work and/or exams. All work is to be completed and modified dates or tests dates are at the discretion of the Instructor.

Academic Integrity

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. You are expected to be familiar with HCC's policy on Academic Honesty. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. To be clear, plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without giving credit), collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit), and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty can be given a grade of "F" or "0" for the particular test or assignment involved, assigned a failing grade in the course, and/or referred to the Dean of Student Services for further disciplinary action. In extreme cases or for repeated violations, guilty students are recommended for probation or dismissal from the College. Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

HCC Policy is that you can miss up to but not exceed 12.5% of class hours, which is equivalent to 6 hours in this course. If you have not attended class before the official date of record, you will be automatically withdrawn from the course by the registrar. Students who are withdrawn for nonattendance will not be reinstated. Although it is your responsibility to withdraw from a course, the instructor has the authority to withdraw you for excessive absences. You may be withdrawn from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the total hours of instruction (6 hours for this course).

Online Anytime Courses - Failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to being absent.

Online on a Schedule Courses - Failure to log in during your scheduled class time and/or failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to being absent.

Flex Courses - Failure to attend class in person or virtually during your scheduled class time and/or failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to

being absent. In order to maintain social distancing, you will be assigned specific days to attend class in person. When attending class in person, only attend on the days you have been assigned, else you will not be permitted to enter the classroom. When attending class virtually, you are expected to turn your cameras on during class.

Student Conduct

Houston Community College views college-level students as adults who subscribe to a basic standard of conduct, which requires that they not violate any municipal, state or federal laws. Furthermore, no student may disrupt or otherwise interfere with any educational activity or fellow students' right to pursue academic goals to the fullest in an atmosphere appropriate to a community of scholars. Any student failing to abide by appropriate standards of conduct during scheduled college activities may result in disciplinary action. Students suspected of violating the student code of conduct will be subject to the disciplinary process. Students have the right to due process. For detailed information regarding violations of the student code of conduct and the disciplinary and appeal process, visit www.hccs.edu.

Smoking

HCC prohibits smoking inside any of its buildings, owned or leased, including offices, classrooms, restrooms, hallways, elevators and all other interior locations. Smoking is permitted outside in approved areas established by each college, administrative or support location.

Drug-Free Schools

HCC is fully dedicated to a drug-free environment for all students and employees at all college locations. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, sale, offer to sell, purchase and/or use of controlled substances or alcohol on campuses, at teaching sites, in vehicles, and on other property owned, leased or under the control of HCC and at all on-campus and off-campus, school-sponsored activities is prohibited. As a condition of enrollment, all students are required to follow HCC policy and regulations concerning alcohol and other drugs. College counselors are available to students for consultation on alcohol and other drug issues. Counselors will assist students personally or act as a referral source when necessary. All student-counselor relationships will be on a confidential basis to the extent permitted by law.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/ or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by college district officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. "Scholastic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the college district. A recommendation for suspension or expulsion will be referred to the college Dean of Instruction for disciplinary disposition.

Disruptive Behavior

Students that conduct themselves in a manner that significantly interferes with college teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures or other authorized college activities (including its public service functions) on the college premises will be subject to disciplinary action.

Threatening Behavior

A student that poses a threat to him/herself or others will be subject to disciplinary action and may involve a mental health leave of absence.

Organizational Discipline

Organizations and officers of organizations must adhere to the same basic standard of conduct applied to individual students within the College System. Student groups and organizations may be charged with alleged violations of local, state and federal laws and/or College System policies. A student group or organization and its officers may be held collectively and/or individually responsible when alleged violations occur either during an event sponsored by the organization or by an individual representing or associated with that organization or group.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices by students in the classroom is up to the discretion of the instructor. Any use of such devices for purposes other than student learning is strictly prohibited. If an instructor perceives such use as disruptive and/or inappropriate, the instructor has the right to terminate such use. If the behavior continues, the student may be subject to disciplinary action to include removal from the classroom or referral to the dean of student services.

PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Add program-specific information such as the following:

- [Major in Philosophy @ HCC](#)
- [HCC Student Organizations and Clubs](#)
- PHIL Scholarships
- PHIL Scholarships

Provide details for each or include links to the information

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search

- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS³ surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Helen Graham, Ed.D.
713-718-7258
Codwell Hall room, 125
555 Community College Dr.
Houston, TX 77013
<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham>