



HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Phil 1301-14946
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
SPRING SEMESTER 2016
06/06/2016 - 07/10/2016
Professor Joselito D. Coquilla, MA
Instructor

Academic Discipline

Philosophy

Course Title

Introduction to Philosophy

Course Rubric and Class Number

PHIL 1301 – 14946

Location and Meeting Days and Times

WEST LOOP CENTER (MoTuWeThFr – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH)

3 SCH – Regular Term

Contact Hours

48 Contact Hours

Course Length

16 weeks

Type of Instruction

Lecture

Instructor Contact Information

Joselito D. Coquilla, MA, Instructor

Adjunct Faculty, HCC-Northeast

Languages and Humanities Department

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Instructor Office Location and Hours

Campus: WEST LOOP CENTER

Office Hours: By appointment/ before Or after classes

Course Description:

This course is a study of the major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications (Texas ACGM). It provides 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 Course Catalogue). This course stresses the HCC Core Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

Course Goals:

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

HCC CORE CURRICULUM:

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.

Prerequisites

ENGL 1301 or Higher

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.**
- 2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.**
- 3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.**
- 4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.**
- 5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.**

Some Specific Objectives:

At the end of the course, the students should be able:

1. To experience the process of thinking (philosophizing) to develop a reflective awareness of our experience of being.
2. To appreciate the fundamental questions of the various thinkers in the past up to the

present, and making them our own, their questions become our questions, and finding their answers as our answers.

3. To sympathize with the various philosophers in their search for truth in the various branches of philosophy.
4. To find the relevant contributions of the various philosophers to the process of correct reasoning (logic), to the theory of being (metaphysics) and knowledge (epistemology) , and other fields of life (ethics, problem of God and Evil.)
5. To make a reasonable stance—our “own philosophy of life”, thus seeking the ultimate answers to our own questions of our own existence-, on the theory of knowledge, on the existence of God, and on moral universal values.
6. To recall, identify, interpret, explain, apply and justify the various philosophical stance, and the knowledge of this course to our daily life—in personal and societal life through quizzes, class discussions and reflection/reaction papers.

Text Information:

These readings/texts below are available in the school library, college bookstore or in the store near you. It is your option to have a copy on your own. They are original works/writings of the philosophers to be taken as the primary sources in class. However, secondary sources in reference texts are excellent sources to start some topics to be discussed in class, especially that of Biffle’s and Kessler’s book.

Readings: (Online materials can be used as substitute)

Grube. PLATO The Trial and Death of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Death Scene from Phaedo. Hackett Publishing. 3rd Edition, 2001//ISBN 0-915144-15-8

Descartes, Rene. Discourse On Method and Meditations On First Philosophy. Hackett Publishing. 4th 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

Kant, Immanuel. To Perpetual Peace and Other Essays. Hackett 2003. ISBN 0-915145-47-2

Nietzsche, Friedrich. On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life. Hackett Publishing. 1st Edition, 1980//ISBN 0-915144-94-8

Reference Books:

Biffle, Christopher. Landscape of Wisdom, A Guided Tour of Western Philosophy, Mayfield Publishing Company, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-1-55934-724-2

Kessler, Gary. Voices of Wisdom, Multicultural Philosophy Reader. 7th Edition. Wadworth Cengage Learning, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-60153-1

Solomon, Robert C. Introducing Philosophy: A Text With Integrated Readings, 7th ed. New York, New York: Oxford University Press. 2001. ISBN-

Abel, Donald. Fifty Readings Plus. An Introduction to Philosophy, 2nd Ed. McGraw Hill Companies, 1994. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-338672-0

Boss, Judith. *Ethics for Life: A Text with Readings*. 5th ed. New York, New York: McGraw Hill, 2004. ISBN: 0-07283133-2

Academic Honesty

The HCC *Student Handbook* lists cheating, plagiarism and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines:

- a) Cheating as copying from someone else's paper or using unauthorized materials during a test.
- b) Plagiarism as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit."
- c) Collusion as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit."

Any work submitted for this course that is determined by the professor to be the result of either cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will earn a "0" for that assignment, and may easily cause the student to receive an "F" in the course depending on the weight of the assignment in determining your course grade. Your professor may also recommend a further punishment of probation, or dismissal from HCC and ALL of its several colleges. See the *Student Handbook* for further information.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies

1. All students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes. The teacher will assign the new final grade of "FX" to students who stopped attending class, rather than a grade of "F." Of course, this does not apply to students who withdraw from the class by the Last Day for Administrative Withdrawals (cf. Date of Last day of withdrawal, policy no. 7). The reason for the creation of the new grade is that the Department of Education now requires that we make a distinction between an "earned" grade of "F" (i.e. for poor performance) and a grade of "F" due to a lack of attendance.

2. ***The faculty can now withdraw students directly from the class roster for grounds of excessive absences, and submit the withdrawal request for immediate processing in Peoplesoft. (cf. Excessive Absences in policy no. 3.)***

3. College policy stipulates that any student who misses more than 12.5 % of instruction (6 class hours = 4 sessions) may be subject to **administrative withdrawal**. Students are allowed to miss class up to 2 days in a row (consecutive) and/or 4 days during the semester (non-consecutive) before they may be dropped from the course by the teacher. ***However, if you violate the above policy, the teacher may or may not withdraw the student right away, you have to communicate the teacher immediately your situation or the teacher may call your attention; or in some cases, if you plan to drop the course, it is in your best interest to fill out the paperwork on your own and submit the withdrawal of course before deadline.***

4. Attendance and on time arrival to class are absolutely essential to your success in this class. You will earn an attendance grade based upon the following scale: 0 absences=100; 1 absence= 90; 2 absences= 80; 3 absences=70; 4 absences=60; and more than 4 absences is a failing grade for this portion of final grade distribution.

5. Attendance will be taken in the form of a sign-in sheet using your assigned signature. Anyone found abusing the sign-in sheet process may be dropped from the course. Please arrive on time. Roll Call on the attendance (sign-in) sheet is done after 15 minutes

allowance. You are only given 15 minute allowance before a tardy mark is given. Three (3) Tardy marks is equal to one (1) absent.

6. Absences for medical reasons or jury duties are excusable and students need to provide the necessary proof or evidence of these kinds of absences. Absences for emergency reasons can be counted excused when found reasonable by the teacher.

7. The **final date for student withdrawals for summer 1 classes is JUNE 24, 2016**. If you drop the course, you must complete the necessary forms with the Registration personnel prior to this date. If you do not complete the withdrawal form and do not complete the required work in this class, you will receive an "FX" for the course—failure due to absences. HCCS instructors are no longer allowed to give students a grade of "W" at the end on the semester. The only way your grade will appear as a "W" on your course record is if the withdrawal form is submitted prior to the deadline mentioned above.

GRADING COMPONENTS

Your grade will be determined by the following	Details	Percent of Final Average
3 Quizzes	Multiple Choice	30%
Midterm Exam (50 pts) FINAL EXAM (50 points)	Multiple Choice	30%
4 Critical Thinking Essay	Collaborative Essay - Reporting	20 %
5 Philo Journal 5 Vocabulary Look Up	Journal Summary Report & Vocabulary project	10%
Attendance & Extra Credit	Attendance/Extra Credit	10%
Total:		100%

COMPONENTS EXPLAINED:

- Four quizzes are scheduled assessment tests. These are done by answering an exercise or a series of exercises either taken from the reference texts or prepared by the instructor. Total quizzes is 100 points.
- The midterm examination will include unit 1 and 2 quizzes and partly unit 3 materials. The Final examination will cover unit 3 and 4 quizzes and unit 5 materials. Both midterm and final exam will have a total of 100 pts.
- The Critical Thinking Project/Papers are short reflective or evaluative papers or project on an assigned title to be submitted on a due date. Please see calendar for due dates. Every paper is 25 points each and the topic will be discussed by the instructor with special rubrics/guide to follow. Grading guide will be as follows: A (25 pts), A-(23 pts), B (21 pts), B- (19 pts), C (15 pts) & D (10 pts). No paper is 0. This portion of the grading system has 100 points total. As the instructor decides, some papers may be written, reported and discussed as a team. This portion has 100 points total.
- S.E.A.T (Student Engagement Activities with the Text) --Philosophy Vocabulary Project is a student activity to be submitted at the beginning of every unit, to be done either

individually or collaboratively. No late submission and no make up for missed vocabulary project. Philosophical Journal Writing is daily summary ideas on assigned reading, discussion and lectures. Most of these are guided. You cannot be mistaken if you are in class. Total points is also 100 points.

5. Attendance will earn points towards the final exam. You will earn an attendance grade based upon the following scale: 0 absences=100; 1 absence= 90; 2 absences= 80; 3 absences=70; 4 absences=60; and more than 4 absences is a failing grade (FX) as explained in class attendance policy.
6. Extra Credit Assignments: Class participation in various class discussion and group activities will be given credit points. The instructor will determine how the students are given extra credits accordingly. These extra credit portion may include perfect attendance credit, complete compiled notes neatly organized credit, evaluation participation at the end of the semester credit, etc.

Letter Grade Determination:

Letter Grade	Final Average in Percent
A	90 – 100 points
B	80 – 89 points
C	70 – 79 points
D	60 – 69 points
F	0 – 59 points
FX	Failure due to Attendance

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

Houston Community College System is dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. It promotes equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.

Make-up policy

Students are responsible for materials covered in-class during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to contact and consult with the instructor for make-up assignments. There is no make-up for scheduled quizzes. Once you missed it, you cannot take it by special appointment. Make-up is allowed on major exams such as first trial, midterm and final exam. A student who is absent on posted major exam dates should be prepared to schedule the make-up of missed examinations on the first day of returning to class. Make-up examinations are given for those who make arrangement with the instructor with a valid reason for the absences. Any other assignments/papers not turned in on time (due to absences) must also be either turned in, or scheduled for late submission on the first day of returning to class. The instructor determines particular deduction points in every late assignments and make-up major exams.

On The Use of Mobile phones, Beepers and Laptops:

Mobile phones and beepers must be turned off or put in a silent/Vibrate mode during the class. Laptops computers, Ipads and other electronic devices are likewise discouraged, unless if they are used in class presentations and other class activities that are assigned by the professor in advance.

Repeated violators can result in a grade change. No student has the right to disrupt the education of other students.

Campus Safety and Guns on campus

For any issue that requires police assistance, please dial 88888 on any campus phone. Use this number instead of 911. Also, understand that using the campus police will result in a police report. If you encounter anyone who is not a licensed law enforcement officer carrying a gun on campus, this is a violation of the law and HCC policy. Please contact the campus police immediately. Do not confront the individual or attempt to escalate the situation. The following is a draft of a statement that you may include in your syllabus regarding guns on campus: "Until August 2017, firearms are prohibited on all HCC properties (including buildings, parking lots, and grounds). Students who violate state law and/or HCC policy will be subject to disciplinary and/or legal action (see HCC Student Code of Conduct for further information)."

Course Calendar and Contents

06/06/2016 - 07/10/2016

The course calendar of topics and assignments are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control, like weather issues and unforeseen holidays.

Date	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Jun 6 MON	Syllabus & Calendar Discussions Classroom Policies	Review of Required Texts (RT)/Reference Texts
Jun 7 TUE	Unit 1: Philosophy: An Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy Defined What is wisdom? Doing Philosophy 	What is Philosophy? Kessler To do: Philosophical Vocabulary Homework Due: Collaborative -in Class
Jun 8 WED	Rationality and Principles of Rationality: FOUNDATIONALISM VS CONSTRUCTIVISM	Discussion/Lecture
Jun 9 THU	The Philosopher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socrates Life Trial and Death 	Who is Socrates? Who is a Philosopher? "The Apology", Plato p. 50-63 Video: Trial of Socrates To do: Journal 1 –THE VALUE OF PHILOSOPHY AND WHO ARE PHILOSOPHERS (SOCRATES) DUE: Collaborative – in class
	Philosophy/Philosopher (Socrates) Synthesis	MASTERY REVIEW FOR QUIZ 1

Jun 10 FRI	Assessment and Summary Quiz 1 CRITICAL THINKING Paper 1: On Socrates' Life – BREAKING THE LAW FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE (cf. guide how to write critical thinking paper) Due date: Jun 13 Monday	35 POINTS Covers: From Overview to Socrates
Jun 13 MON	Unit 2: METAPHYSICS: Overview What is Truly Real? Intro to Metaphysics	Reading: What is Really Real? Kessler To do: PHILOSOPHICAL VOCABULARY Due: Collaborative in class
Jun 14 TUE	The Problem of Metaphysics and Plato's and Aristotle's solution	LECTURE/DISCUSSION
Jun 15 WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato's Metaphysics Dualism & Idealism	Reading: "The Republic", Plato p. 421-430 Video: The Allegory of the Cave Decoding Plato Exercises/ THINKING LIKE PLATO/FAKE LOVE (Extra Credit) – Due: The next day
Jun 16 THU	Aristotle's Metaphysics (Substance, Accidents, 4 Causes and Change/ Categories)	Read text and Exercises: On Aristotle, Biffle, pp. 250-263. Aristotelian Influence? Exercises on 10 Categories EXTRA CREDIT (CAUSES/CATEGORIES) To do: Journal 2 –Plato's and Aristotle's answer to what is really real? Due: Collaborative in class
	PLATO AND ARISTOTLE SYNTHESIS	MASTERY REVIEW

Jun 17 FRI	QUIZ 2 Covers: Intro to Metaphysics- Plato and Aristotle and synthesis Critical Thinking Paper 2: Star Trek Due: Jun 20 Monday	35 Points Reflection: Follow Rubrics in Making the Paper.
Jun 16-17 Thu and Fri	Reporting Planning Days (for Collaborative Report and Project)	Activities to be Explained
Jun 20 MON	Unit 3: Epistemology: An Overview Is Knowledge Possible?	Reading: Is Knowledge Possible? Kessler To do: Philosophical Vocabulary Due: Collaborative in Class
Jun 21 TUE	<u>Epistemological Notions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition • Real Question and Non-question • Truth, Evidence, Certitude 	Lecture/Discussion PDF notes on Intro to Epistemology by Potter (Summary notes)
	<u>Mastery review on epistemological notions</u>	
Jun 22 WED	MIDTERM EXAM Covers: Quiz 1-2 and Epistemology Overview (Kessler), Epistemological Notions (Potter)	50 points
	GROUP FINALIZATION PLANNING	After midterm

Jun 23 THU	REPORTING DAYS	DESCARTES' EPISTEMOLOGY LOCKE'S EPISTEMOLOGY HUME'S EPISTEMOLOGY
Jun 24 FRI	REPORTING DAYS	BERKELEY'S PHILOSOPHY KANT'S EPISTEMOLOGY
	Epistemological Theories Synthesis	Readings and PDF notes on epistemological philosophers TODO: JOURNAL 3— EPISTEMOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHERS (2 each) Individual Due: Jun 27 Monday
Jun 27 MON	Unit 4: Introduction to Theodicy/ Philosophy of Religion	Reading: Are Religious Claims True? Kessler To do: Philosophical Vocabulary Due: Collaborative in class
Jun 28 TUE	Anselm's Ontological Proof	Lecture and Discussion "The Ontological Argument", Anselm of Canterbury
	Thomas Aquinas' Cosmological Proof on the Existence of God	The Five Ways", St. Thomas Aquinas TO DO: JOURNAL 4 — ANSELM AND AQUINAS' ARGUMENTS Due: Collaborative in class

Jun 29 WED	God and The Problem of Evil Solutions to the Problem of Evil	PDF Readings/Notes
Jun 30 THU	Philosophy of Religion Synthesis Blaise Pascal' Wager: To Believe or not to Believe Extra Credit	PDF Notes
	MASTERY REVIEW FOR QUIZ 3	
Jul 1 FRI	<p>Quiz 3: Epistemological Philosophers/Ideas from Report</p> <p>On Theodicy and Proofs of God's Existence; The problem of Evil and possible solutions.</p> <p>30 points</p> <p>FINAL PAPER: 1 page essay—MY IMPORTANT LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>1 PAGE MINIMUM, 2 PAGES MAXIMUM</p> <p>DUE - MONDAY JUL 4</p>	BINDER'S CHECK (Extra Credit)-DURING QUIZ 3
Jul 4 MOM Jul 5 TUE	Unit 5: Ethics, Ethical Positions and Theories	<p>How Do I know what is right? Kessler</p> <p>Vocabulary 5 Due –Jul 4 Collaborative in class</p> <p>Journal 5 – Due –JUL 5 - Individual 2 summary Ideas for each ethical theory.</p>
Jul 6 WED	TENTATIVE PRE-FINAL GRADE RELEASE	
Jul 7 THU	FINAL EXAM	
Jul 8 FRI	Grades Submission Due	