

Instructor: Keisha Ray, Ph.D. (You may refer to me as Dr. Ray)

Summer 2016, Web-Enhanced (3 Credit Hours)

6/6/16-7/31/16

MOST QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE CAN BE ANSWERED BY LOOKING AT YOUR SYLLABUS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, LOOK AT YOUR SYLLABUS FIRST. IF THE SYLLABUS DOES NOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, CONTACT ME.

Learning Web Page: https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/keisha.ray

Email: [keisha.ray@hccs.edu](mailto:keisha.ray@hccs.edu). If you email me after 5pm on a Friday, you can expect an email back Monday morning. I generally do not check email over the weekend, however, occasionally I will check emails and respond, but this is not the norm.

Prerequisite: ENG 1302

Course description: A philosophical reflection of the basic principles of the moral life, and traditional and contemporary views concerning the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom.

**THIS COURSE IS ENTIRELY ONLINE.**

**THERE IS NO TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE.**

Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

This is a *web-enhanced* course that uses *Eagle Online 2*. The *Eagle Online* login page is:

<https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php>

Your Eagle Online username is the same as your HCC Eagle ID (or User ID) which is used for Online Registration (for example: W0034567). Your password is the same password you use to log in to PeopleSoft, HCC Webmail, and Active Directory (computer terminal login). For any questions about your Eagle ID or password, please go check online [here](http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-e-maileagle-id/).

IMPORTANT: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, [here](http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/). (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)

All readings, class updates, grades, assignment instructions, and handouts will be located on *Eagle Online 2.*

*For helpful resources offered to distance education students see this campus website.* [*http://www.hccs.edu/online/course-resources/*](http://www.hccs.edu/online/course-resources/)

**Campus Policies**

**Title IX.**

TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, 20 U.S.C. A§ 1681 ET. SEQ.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students’ rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are on the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations.  Log in to: [www.edurisksolutions.org](http://www.edurisksolutions.org/) .

**Students with Disabilities.** The HCC Accessibility website is located at the following url: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/accessibility/>. 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.

**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.

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**Course Polcies**

**Grading**. All grades will be calculated based on the number of points students receive out of 100. The grade legend is as follows:

A =  90% to 100% B =  80% to 89.9% C = 70% to 79.9%   D =  60% to 69.9% F  =  0% to 59.9%

**FINAL GRADE OF FX**. Students who stop attending class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of "FX" at the end of the semester. Students who stop attending classes will receive a grade of "FX", compared to an earned grade of "F" which is due to poor performance. **Logging into a DE course without active participation is seen as non-attending**. Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class. Students who receive financial aid but fail to attend class will be reported to the Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of "FX" is treated exactly the same as a grade of "F" in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress.

**Late policy.** I do not accept late work. I post all due dates at the beginning of the course and I allow plenty of time to complete each assignment so that students can plan their schedules. I will only allow exceptions with the documentation of a medical or dental emergency. Exceptions are at my discretion.

**Tutoring***. !! Philosophy Tutoring is available at* [*http://hccs.askonline.net/*](http://hccs.askonline.net/) *Please use it if you need it !! It is completely online and tutors will look at your papers for content and grammar. They will look at up to two drafts of a paper. They will also explain assignments to you. Papers are usually returned within 24 hours.*

**Plagiarism.** “Plagiarism” means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own work. **If you turn in plagiarized work you will be given the score of zero for the assignment and will lose 5 points from your overall final grade.** Second offense is a failing grade for the entire course, regardless of your current grade in the course. Furthermore, assignments used for other courses at HCC or any other college/university cannot be submitted as assignments for this course, even if you are the author of the work. Citing “poorly recorded bibliographic information” as a reason for plagiarism is unacceptable and will still be subject to a failing grade.

Cheating, including using unauthorized materials and using other classmates’ work to complete assignments and completing assignments with assistance from classmates without permission from the instructor is subject to the same penalties as plagiarism. The instructor will determine other forms of cheating. Turnitin.com will be used to check for plagiarism.

**Accommodation Policy.** This class, as most philosophy classes do, requires students to learn about topics and other opinions and world views that may challenge their own beliefs; however, to accomplish the goals of this class, students must at the minimum be willing to listen and learn about beliefs that contradict their own. Accordingly, I will not alter any content in this class. If you foresee your unwillingness to participate in class discussion, complete assignments, attend class, and read your text and read additional readings because you do not agree with the information being presented, you should reconsider enrolling in this course.

This course is a philosophy course, which means that we will examine various arguments concerning philosophical concepts. Your grade will be based on your understanding of the readings, the philosophical concepts and tools they employ, and your analysis as demonstrated by satisfactorily completing the assignments. It will not be based on your personal beliefs, unless otherwise stated.

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**GUIDELINES, STUDY TIPS, AND ONLINE CLASS TOOLS.**

1. Respect is very important in a class of this sort and nothing less will be tolerated. You do not have to like or agree with everyone’s opinion but you do have to respect it as his/her own. This means that all online interactions must held in a respectable manner. Any material deemed inappropriate will be removed from online forums and will result in a zero points for the assignment.
2. Read all class material, including assigned readings. There may be times that you do not understand the readings or may have to read it more than once to understand them. Don’t give up! Keep going, even if you don’t understand it. Then email me with specific questions for clarification.
3. A good, reputable source for philosophical information is <http://plato.stanford.edu/>.
4. Please remember proper email etiquette. In emails, include your name and a detailed description of your question or concern. For privacy and security reasons, I will not respond to emails without a name. If you are emailing me for help with an assignment, give me the assignment question and what you think the answer may be. For what I expect, see the following link: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20correspond%20with%20your%20professor.html>
5. Check *Eagle Online 2* and your syllabus often for due dates, reminders, grades, and any information that I need to relay to the entire class. All assignments will be turned in online. If I need to contact you personally I will do so using the email address you have on file with the college. This is the official form of contact. You are responsible for the information that I email to you.
6. I post grades on Blackboard so you can keep track of your grade (To determine your grade in the class at any given time, add up all of the points you have received, then add up the total points available in the class so far and then divide the two sums.

**Attendance.** **There will be an introduction post that you must complete by June 8th. If you do not complete this post I will take this as not attending class during the first week of courses and drop you from the course. The post will be titled “Introductions.”** You will be responsible for any consequences associated with being dropped from the course. If you do not complete the post, I will send one email as notification. **If you do not respond by June 18th you will be dropped from the course.**

**Assignments**

**Readings.** Each week you will have 1-2 readings. Follow the schedule of readings. You must read to complete the weekly assignments. **Each weelk I will also post either a short powerpoint or a word document to help guide your readings as “Notes” to help guide your reading and help you complete your homework**. Be sure to read the Intro powerpoint to get an idea of what it means to take an ethics course.

**Posts.** Each week you will have to complete 2 posts: 1 original post responding to a prompt that I will post (350 words +/-) and 1 post responding to a classmate’s post (100 words +/-). Once you post your original post, Eagle Online will allow you to see the entire forum. I will post the prompt by Monday. **You must complete both posts by Friday, 11:55pm**. This is an all or nothing assignment. If you do not do both posts, you will not receive any credit (i.e. there is no half credit). To get full credit make sure that each post is thoughful, adds to the conversation, shows that you read the required reading(s), and meets the word count. Be sure to answer all parts of the question(s). Week 8 you will not have a post due. **7 posts (2 weekly posts count as 1) x 5 points each=35 points**

**Homework.** Each week you will have to answer a series of questions about the week’s reading(s). This assignment is meant to determine if you have read the material and can understand the basic concepts (If you need help, see “Guidelines, study tips…” above). Submit your homework as an attachment, either in the form of a .pdf, .doc(x), or .rtf.

**Homework is due every Thursday, 11:55pm. 7 assignments x 5 points each=35 points**

If you use sources other than the readings for this course, include the website or book name at the end of your assignment as well as within your assignment so that you do not get a zero for plagiarism (and other penalties).

**Final paper. The last week of class you will not have homework or posts due.** On 7/28/16, 11:55pm you will have a final paper due instead. In this paper you will be required to write an argumentative paper on a topic covered in this course (paper topics can be chosen from the bold headings listed in the “schedule of readings.”). In 3-4 pages, 12 pt. font, heading, Times New Roman or Arial, no cover page (follow directions so you do not lose points) you will write a paper that presents an issue (just state what the issue is without giving an opinion) and gives at least two sides to an ethical issue (without stating an opinion). You must use at least one source from the course and 3 additional sources (no blogs, online newspaper articles, books, peer-reviewed articles, opinion pages from scientists, researchers, college professors are all acceptable). Be sure to cite the source for any information that you directly quote or summarize. If a source inspires an idea in your paper, that source needs to be cited. Be sure to put citations within your paper as well as in a separate works cited page. Follow MLA guidelines (be sure to include the link to any online source). I will post further instructions and a rubric on Eagle Online. **30 points**

**There is no extra credit.**

**Schedule of Readings**

**(Be sure to read the weekly notes to help guide your reading)**

Week 1, 6/6: **Marriage and sexuality**

Readings: Be sure to read the intro to ethics powerpoint first.

Card “Against marriage”/ Corvino “Why shouldn’t Tommy and Jim have sex?

Week 2, 6/13: **Animal ethics**

Readings: Rachels “The basic argument for vegetarianism”/ Cohen “Do animals have rights?”

Week 3, 6/20: **Euthanasia and physician assisted suicide**

Readings: Rachels “Active and passive euthansia”/ Kass “Is there a right to die?”

Week 4, 6/27: **Duty to the poor**

Readings: Engel “9/11 and starvation/ Singer “Singer solution to world poverty”

Week 5, 7/4 (Fourth of July holiday. I’ll put up the post by 7/5): **Globalization and feminist ethics**

Readings: Hilde Lindemann “ Globalization and cross cultural judgments”

Week 6, 7/11: **Identity**

Readings: Hilde Lindemann “The importance of who we are”

Week 7, 7/18: **Enhancement**

Readings: Sandel “The case against perfection”/ Savulescu and Kahane “The moral obligation to create children with the best chance of the best life”

Week 8, 7/25: **Final paper due by 7/28/16, 11:55pm**

**Remember, if you need help, Tutoring***. !! Philosophy Tutoring is available at* [*http://hccs.askonline.net/*](http://hccs.askonline.net/) *Please use it if you need it !! It is completely online and tutors will look at your papers for content and grammar. They will look at up to two drafts of a paper. They will also explain assignments to you. Papers are usually returned within 24 hours.*