



# Philosophy Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy  
PHIL 1301-0008 37321  
PHIL 1301-0010 37332

Instructor: Keyao Yang

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9/13/2017-12/13/2017, Lecture (3 Credit Hours)

Office Hour: by appointment

West Loop Campus Rm C142  
West Loop Campus Rm C223

TuTh 9:30-10:50  
TuTh 11:00-12:20

## Course Description:

This course is an introduction of the major issues in philosophy. Topics include philosophy of mind, philosophy of knowledge, philosophy of value and their practical applications. 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.

## PREREQUISITE(S):

- ENGL 1301 or higher

## 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.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Read, analyze, and critique** philosophical texts.
2. **DeTustrate knowledge** of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. **Present** logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.

**4. DeTuestrate 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.

**Readings:**

Vaughn, Lewis *Philosophy Here and Now: Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford University Press. (ISBN-13: 978-0190207038, ISBN-10: 0190207035)

**Assignment and Class Schedule:** *(Instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule as needed during the course.)*

Week 1 (9.11-9.15) Philosophy and Argument

Reading assignment: *Philosophy Here and Now* PP. 14-29 (blackboard pdf)

Tue: what is philosophy, argument

Thur: argument, reading philosophy

Week 2 (9.18-9.22) Free Will and Determinism

Reading assignment: *Philosophy Here and Now* PP. 229-248

Tue: The problem of free will

Thur: Determinism and Indeterminism

Week 3 (9.25-9.29) Free Will and Determinism

Reading assignment: excerpt from *Freedom, Responsibility, and Determinism* (pdf on blackboard)

Tue: Incompatibilism

Thur: Compatibilism

Week 4 (10.2-10.6) The Just Society

Reading assignment: *Philosophy Here and Now* PP. 338-361

Tue: Overview, Plato, Hobbes

Thur: Locke, Rawls

Week 5 (10.9-10.13) The Just Society

Reading assignment: *Philosophy Here and Now* PP. 362-375, videos on blackboard

Tue: Socialism, Feminism

Thur: Building a just society

Week 6 (10.16-10.20) Movie on Philosophical Topic

No reading assigned

Tue: Movie A Separation

Thur: Movie discussion

Week 7 (10-23-10.27) Midterm

No reading assigned

Tue: review session

Thur: Midterm

Week 8 (10.30-11.3) Mind and Body

Reading assignment: Philosophy Here and Now PP. 196-221

Tue: The mind-body problem

Thur: dualism and materialism

Week 9 (11.6-11.10) Mind and Body

Reading assignment: What Is It Like to Be a Bat (pdf on blackboard), Ned Block's Chinese brain thought argument (pdf on blackboard)

Tue: dualism

Thur: materialism

Week 10 (11.13-11.17) Argument Mapping

Reading assignment: pdf on blackboard

Essay due on Thursday.

Tue: argument mapping

Thur: argument mapping

Week 11 (11.20-11.24) Knowledge and Skepticism

Reading assignment: Philosophy Here and Now PP. 263-298

Tue: The problem of knowledge

Thur: rationalism and empiricism

Week 12 (11.27-12.1) Knowledge and Skepticism

Reading assignment: Philosophy Here and Now PP. 299-313, audio on blackboard

Tue: Kantian epistemology and feminist epistemology

Thur: The credibility of scientific knowledge

Week 13 (12.4-12.8) Movie on Philosophical Topic

No reading assigned

Tue: Movie A.I.

Thur: movie discussion

Week 14 (12.11-12.15)

Final exam

**Exams and Grading:**

Midterm: 25% (week 7)

Final exam: 25% (week 14)

Essay: 25% (week 10)

Attendance and participation: 25%

**Grading Policy:**

Letter Grade	Range
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69

**Late policy:**

Late to class: We are all adults, so I understand lateness sometimes occurs. However, attendance and on class participation takes 25% of your final grade, therefore for the sake of your own grade, it would only benefit you if you come to class on time.

Late Assignments: I will penalize late work that comes in up to a week after the due date at 50%. So I'll still grade it, and you'll get half the points you would if it were on time. If it's past a week, automatic zero. Excused cases that are brought to my attention and agreed upon before the deadline will be dealt with on an individual basis.

*!! Philosophy Tutoring is available at <http://hccs.askonline.net/> Please use it if you need it !!*

**Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism is not only strictly prohibited, it is extremely boring. Your writing does not have to be ground-breaking or technically infallible, since this is an introductory Philosophy course anyway. That being said, plagiarism can result in penalties up to and including removal from the course and/or the university.

**Make-up Policy:**

Excused absences will be given an opportunity to make up in-class work. However, for the take home essay, the original due dates will still be maintained.

**Attendance and Withdrawal Policy:**

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. Your instructor will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student. Additionally, system-wide rules affect withdrawals:

- (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 Fall 2017 is September 19th. After that date, 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". Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript.

## **Notice About Online Learning Management Software:**

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture 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](#).

**IMPORTANT:** Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, [here](#). (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)

## **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.

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including 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/district/students/disability-services/>

## **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.

## **Philosophy Program Instructional Plan**

**Supplemental Instructional Activities:** To be determined by the instructor if needed.

**Instructional Content:** SLOs are listed above. Faculty align their assignments with the SLO's when preparing their syllabi. These are addressed through a variety of assignments determined by the instructor.

## **Evaluation Procedures:**

SLOs are determined to have been met upon successful completion by students of pre-determined outcome aligned assessments. Successful completion is a grade of 70 or higher.

Title IX Discrimination: 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 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 - Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu (713) 718-8271

Open/Campus Carry of Handguns: At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.