



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

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

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**Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | Lecture | #14561**

Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks

Lecture | Stafford Learning Hub Room 222 | MW 12:30 to 1:50

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Lamont Rodgers	Office Phone:	173-718-5598
Office:	305	Office Hours:	by appointment
HCC Email:	lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu	Office Location:	Stafford Learning Hub

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**

Lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu

**Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites**

ENGL 1301

**Canvas Learning Management System**

This section of PHIL 1301 will use [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

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**

All reading material is provided for free in Canvas.

### **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 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

### 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 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.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

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.

### Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Read canonical texts in the philosophical tradition.
- 1.2 Analyze, discuss, and critique philosophical texts in class, including through student presentations.
- 1.3 Analyze and critique philosophical texts in written work, including papers and tests.
- 2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in central areas of philosophy.
- 2.2 Define key concepts in your own words and provide definitions in regular quizzes.
- 2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers

studied in the course through short answer questions and papers.

3 Present logically persuasive arguments in presentations, papers, and tests.

4.1 Engage in critical thinking through classroom discussion and presentations.

4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in written work.

5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility.

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

## **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

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.

(THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR)

### **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
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- 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

**Term Paper:** A term paper on a topic assigned by the instructor. The due date is listed on the reading schedule. No late papers are accepted. If you are caught plagiarizing your term paper, you will receive a zero on it. There will be no second chances. Students caught engaging in plagiarism will also be entered into HCC's internal tracking system. Students who are caught engaging in academic dishonesty multiple times will be subject to discipline, which includes suspension and expulsion. (200 points)

### Exams

**Three Exams:** These exams are worth 100 points each. (300 points) These exams test knowledge of basic course concepts. They are completed on scantron. The dates of each exam is on the reading schedule. If you arrive one second late for the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam. If you miss one of the first two exams, your next one will count double. If you miss both the first two exams, you get a zero on them. You may not miss the final.

### In-Class Activities

**In-Class Assignments:** 10 in-class assignments worth 45points each. (450 points) These will be completed in-class. We will do them at the beginning of the meeting. If you arrive after I begin scoring the assignments, you have a zero. If you leave before we finish scoring the assignment, you receive a zero. Period. Students must both complete the assignment in the classroom and participate in the in-class grading process to receive credit. We do 17 of these, but I count only the highest 10. There are no excused assignments, since I ultimately count only 10.

I will implement surprise measures to prevent cheating during the grading phase of these assignments. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero on the assignment and lose the opportunity to count only your 10 highest grades. I count the zero and your ten lowest scores to that point. Just don't cheat.

See class etiquette for further details.

**Writing Workshop:** Students will be a rough draft of their term papers to class and complete a peer review session. For credit, each student must have a draft of his/her paper and participate in the two-part evaluation process. (50 points)

### Final Exam

The third exam is the final exam.

### Grading Formula

**A = 90% to 100% (900 to 1000 points) 4 points per semester hour**  
**B = 80% to 89.9% (800 to 899 points) 3 points per semester hour**

**C = 70% to 79.9% (700 to 799 points) 2 points per semester hour**

**D = 60% to 69.9% (600 to 699 points) 1 point per semester hour**

**F = 0% to 59.9% (000 to 539 points) 0 points per semester hour**

**FX (Failure due to non-attendance) 0 points per semester hour**

**IP (In Progress) 0 points per semester hour**

**W (Withdrawn) 0 points per semester hour**

**I (Incomplete) 0 points per semester hour**

**AUD (Audit) 0 points per semester hour**

**Incomplete Policy:**

**Students must have a legal or medical excuse that shows an inability to complete the work for this course.**

**HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:**

**<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>**



## Course Calendar

Aug 26: Introduction

### SECTION 1: PARTS, QUALITIES AND EXAMPLES OF ARGUMENTS AND FALLACIES

Aug 28: Reading 1 in Canvas

Sept 2: NO CLASS

Sept 4 : Reading 2 (Anselm) in Canvas; In-Class 1

Sept 9: Reading 3 (Descartes) in Canvas; In-Class 2

Sept 11: Reading 4 (Kant) in Canvas; In-Class 3

Sept 16: Reading 5 (Hobbes) in Canvas; In-Class 4

Sept 18: In-Class 5

Sept 23: Review for Exam 1

Sept 25: EXAM 1

### SECTION 2: LOGICAL OPERATORS, KINDS OF PROPOSITIONS, AND RULES OF INFERENCE

Sept 30: Exam Review/Reading 6 (Descartes again)

Oct 2: Reading 7 (McBrayer); In-Class 6

Oct 7: Reading 8 (Gettier); In-Class 7

Oct 9: Reading 9 (Inferences); In-class 9

Oct 14: Reading 10 (Inferences); In-Class 9

Oct 16: In-Class 10

Oct 21: Review for Exam 2

Oct 23: EXAM 2

### SECTION 3: Reasoning

Oct. 28: Return exam. Reading 12 (Base Rate Neglect)

Oct 30: Reading 13 (Conjunctive Fallacy); In-Class 10

Nov 4: Reading 14 (Optimism Bias); In-Class 11

Nov 6: Reading 15 (Confirmation Bias); In-Class 12

Nov 11: Reading 16 (Probability Neglect); In-Class 13

Nov 13: Reading 17 (Adaptive Preferences); In-Class 14

Nov. 18: Reading 18 (Eyewitness testimony); In-Class 15

Nov. 20: Video on cognitive biases

Nov. 25: Free Writing Day

Nov. 27: Review for Final Exam

Dec. 2: WORKSHOP

Dec. 4: FINAL EXAM. DO NOT ARRIVE LATE. SEE THE SYLLABUS FOR MY POLICY. Term papers must be submitted at the beginning of class. If you leave class to print your term paper, it is late.

### **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**

**There is no make-up work for this class. See the policies under the assignments.**

### **Academic Integrity**

Scholastic Dishonesty will result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services. See the link below for details.

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/>

### **Student Conduct**

**Put your cell phones on vibrate when you enter the classroom. Do not speak while someone else has the floor. Disrupting a college classroom is a misdemeanor in the state of Texas. Disruptive students will receive one warning. If the student is disruptive again, he or she will be asked to leave.**

**Any student who disrupts the class three times will be told to leave, and if necessary, aided by campus police. The instructor will then initiate charges against the student.**

**Students who are late receive neither extra time nor special treatment. Information and time you miss via tardiness are lost and gone forever. If you arrive late and miss an assignment or lack time to complete it, nothing will be done to make up for that lost time.**

## **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

## **EGLS<sup>3</sup>**

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> (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. EGLS<sup>3</sup> 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](mailto: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>