

## **PHIL 1301 -- Introduction to Philosophy**

CRN 37304 – Fall 2017

Stafford Campus – Stafford Learning Hub Room 300| 12:30 to 1:50| MW

Office Hours and Location: Stafford Learning Hub Room 305; MTWTh 9 to 9:25am

3 hour lecture course / 48 hours per semester/ 16 weeks

**Instructor: Lamont Rodgers, Ph.D.**

**Instructor Contact Information: Email: [lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu](mailto:lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu)**

**Phone: 713-718-5598**

### **Office location and hours**

*Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and just to discuss course topics. Feel free to come by my office anytime during these hours.*

### **Course Description**

Introduction to the study of ideas and their logical structure, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. Includes introduction to the history, theories, and methods of reasoning (Texas ACGM). A general introduction to critical and reflective thinking that emphasizes the philosophy of knowledge across the curriculum. Prepares students for postgraduate testing, such as the Graduate Record

Examination analytical writing section or the Law School Admissions Test.

### **Prerequisites**

Completion of developmental English classes or passing grades on the English portion of the college assessment exam.

### **Course Goal**

The course takes several central philosophical problems as its point of departure for engaging in critical thought, analysis, understanding, and application of themes and concepts to understanding the world around us. Students will acquire a familiarity with logical terminology and reasoning and they will apply this to classic and contemporary texts in philosophy. While

many of the themes of the course are fundamental and may appear abstract the overall focus will be on understanding for life and right action.

**ETIQUETTE: 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.**

### **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.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students will:

- 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.

Required Texts:

All Readings are available in Learning Web

#### GRADING COMPONENTS:

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 15 to 16 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 will count all 16 at value of 28 points each. I know this does not quite add up to 450, but that is yet another great reason for you not to cheat.

See class etiquette for further details.

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 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.

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. (200 points)

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)

#### GRADING:

900 TO 1,000 POINTS = A

800 TO 899 POINTS = B

700 TO 799 POINTS = C

600 TO 699 POINTS =D

<600 POINTS = F

Students with Disabilities:

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), click Future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at Central College.

Open/Campus Carry of Handguns: **Firearms Are Allowed on Campus, but they must be concealed. Firearms are NOT allowed in designated safe zones.** If you see anyone openly carrying a firearm on campus call the HCC Police Department at **8-8888** (713-718-8888) immediately.

Texas House Bill 910—known as the “Open Carry” law—allows holders of a handgun license to carry their handgun visibly in a waist belt holster or a shoulder holster, but **they may not openly carry on or in a college campus or building** and they may not openly carry on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area of the college. Open Carry is effective as of January 1, 2016.

Campus carry and open carry are two (2) separate laws. Texas Senate Bill 11—known as the “Campus Carry” law—will allow individuals who have a valid Texas handgun license to carry a concealed handgun in certain areas on college campuses. The Campus Carry law becomes effective at 4-year institutions on August 1, 2016 and at 2-year institutions on August 1, 2017.

All information regarding both Open Carry and Campus Carry is posted at <http://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry>.

Course Calendar:

Treat this calendar as follows: the date listed is the absolute last day by which you should do the reading. If there is an assignment, we will do the assignment in the classroom, unless otherwise instructed.

Sept 11: Introduction and Survey; Reading 1 in Canvas

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

Sept 13: Reading 2 (Anselm) in Canvas; In-Class 1

Sept 18: Reading 3 (Descartes) in Canvas; In-Class 2

Sept 20: Reading 4 (Kant) in Canvas; In-Class 3

Sept 25: Reading 5 (Hobbes) in Canvas; In-Class 4

Sept 27: Review for Exam 1

Oct 2: Exam 1

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

Oct 4: Exam Review; Reading 7 (Descartes again)

Oct 9: Reading 7 (Descartes again); In-Class 5

Oct 11: Reading 8 (MacBryaer); In-Class 6

Oct 16: Reading 9 (Gettier); In-Class 7

Oct 18: Reading 10 (Moore) ; In-Class 8

Oct 23: Reading 11 (Benedict); In-Class 9

Oct 25: Reading 12: (Rachels); In-Class 10

Oct 30: Rachels again; In-Class 10

Nov 1: Review for Exam 2

Nov 6: EXAM 2

## SECTION 3: Interpretation

Nov 8: Return Exam and Introduce Hermeneutics

Nov 13: Reading 13 (Posner)

Nov 15: Posner again; In-Class 11

Nov 20: Reading 14 (Stevens); In-Class 12

Nov 22: NO CLASS

Nov 27: Reading 15 (Schultz); In-Class 13

Nov 29: Reading 16 (Spooner); In-Class 14

Dec 4: WORKSHOP

Dec 6: Review for Finals; A PHYSICAL COPY OF YOUR TERM PAPER IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR MEETING. IF I LEAVE THE CLASS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR PAPER, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON YOUR PAPER. NO EXCEPTIONS.