



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

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

Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | Lecture | #17514

Spring Session | 16 Weeks Jan 19th to May 16th 2021

Distance Learning

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Lamont Rodgers Office Phone: 713-718-5598
Office: Learning Hub 305 (virtual) Office Hours: Pop-up and by appointment
HCC Email: lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu Office Location: Stafford Campus

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. Please note: The best way to contact me is through my HCCS email. Messages sent directly through canvas often do not reach me promptly.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

Lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

About This Course

This course is an introduction to a fundamental aspect of human existence—the search for meaning and wisdom in our individual and social realities. Philosophy is the oldest and most varied of any academic discipline, and the practice of philosophy demands exercise and development of the highest critical faculties. Thus we shall treat philosophy for both its historical and practical aspects, and will focus specifically upon a number of perennial philosophic questions that philosophers have raised for 2500 years, such as how do I know what is true?; what do “good” and “evil” mean?; what does it mean to say something is beautiful?; what is the good life?; what is the best form of governance for a society?

My Personal Welcome

I am delighted that you have chosen this course! I believe the study of philosophy is one of the most worthwhile endeavors one can embark upon and I am looking forward to getting to

know all of you in the upcoming semester. It is my goal that you all end this course with a dedication to clear, critical thinking and the courage to face and evaluate some of life's biggest questions. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have as we progress through the semester. I am dedicated to your success and will do all I can to try to help you.

My pop-up office hours are for student convenience. If I'm online, I'll send out an invitation to everyone. Feel free to accept the invitation and ask whatever questions you might have. If you neither have questions nor need to speak with me, just ignore the invitation.

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. Please be sure you are able to access canvas and are familiar with it before the beginning of class. Please do not email for make-up due to vacations, home connectivity issues, home computer issues and so on. If you are having trouble with your computer, there are computers available at any public library and HCC campus.

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

This course will consist entirely of readings which I will provide 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 course materials
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities
- Meet the deadlines on the syllabus
- Abide by policies on the syllabus

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.

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
- Comply with policies on the syllabus

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

Term Paper: A term paper on a topic assigned by the instructor. (100 points). 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. **Students who do not submit a term paper will fail the course.** (100 points)

Exams

Three Exams: These exams are worth 30 points each. (90 points) These exams test knowledge of basic course concepts. They are completed in Canvas. The dates of each exam is on the reading schedule. They are not on the individual assignments. As a result, students must read the syllabus and abide by the deadlines. **No late work is accepted.**

Gateway Quizzes: 10 in-class assignments worth 10 points each. (100 total points) These will be completed in Canvas. The deadlines are on the syllabus. They are not on the individual assignments. As a result, students must read the syllabus and abide by the deadlines. **No late work is accepted.**

Students may take these gateway quizzes as often as they like. The highest score is recorded.

EGLS Survey: 10 points. I will send out information about the survey when it becomes available.

Final Exam

Your written assignment will serve as your final exam.

Grading Formula

A = 90% to 100%

B = 80% to 89.9%

C = 70% to 79.9%

D = 60% to 69.9%

F = 0% to 59.9%

FX (Failure due to non-attendance)

IP (In Progress)

W (Withdrawn)

I (Incomplete)

AUD (Audit)

IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses.

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.

To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

Incomplete Policy:

I will allow a student to take an Incomplete in this class only if they have met all of the following conditions:

1. The student has a medical, legal, family, or personal emergency that prevents them from completing work for the course.
 1. This issue occurs after the last day to withdraw.
 2. The student has maintained good academic standing in the course up to that point.
 3. The student requests an incomplete from the professor prior to the end of the course.
 4. The student arranges a schedule for completing incomplete assignments in writing with professor.

Additionally, any student who is unable to complete the course due to pregnancy can receive an incomplete, even if she does not meet the previous conditions.

Course Calendar

Jan. 19th to Feb. 14th: Module 1 Work is due by the end of the day on February 14th. This includes Readings 1 through 4; Lectures 1 through 4; Gateway Quizzes 1 to 4; and Exam 1.

Feb. 15th to March 21st: Module 2 work is due by the end of the day on March 21st This includes Readings 5 through 7; Lectures 5 through 7; Quizzes 5 to 7; and Exam 2.

March 22nd to May 7th: Module 3 work is due by the end of the day on May 7th. This includes Readings 8 through 10; Lectures 8 through 10; Quizzes 8 to 10; and Exam 3.

The Term Paper must be submitted in Canvas by the date of our final. That date is TBA.

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

If there is a legitimate reason for missing class work or exams (death in family, serious illness, hospitalization, deployment) please let me know. You will be allowed to make up the work once documentation is provided.

Often things come up that are beyond our control. If you wait until the last minute to complete your work, there is a greater chance that work, family, computer issues, etc., will create a problem that causes you to miss the assignments. **I cannot stress this enough, you will NOT be given an extension for these issues.** You must schedule your time appropriately. If you are having computer issues, computers may be used at the HCC campus as well as the public library.

Again, missed assignments due to issues with technology will NOT be given an extension.

Academic Integrity

PLAGIARISM – (Reference Student Code of Conduct) "Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit. I take this very seriously. The first time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism your assignment will be given the score of zero and you will not be allowed to re-accomplish the assignment. The second time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism you will be given a zero for the course. If you receive a zero for the course due to plagiarism, you will be reported to the Dean.

If you are unclear what constitutes as plagiarism, please visit our library website at the following address:

http://library.hccs.edu/research_writing/plagiarism

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/>

Attendance Procedures

Attendance is expected in this class, and does count towards your final course grade. I will take attendance within five (5) minutes of class start time. After this, your attendance will be marked "late". Your attendance record will show in your gradebook section of canvas, so you are able to keep track. (That said, I do understand that sometimes circumstances conspire to make us late. Please come to class anyway, and, should you need to arrange to arrive late or leave early, I will gladly accommodate.)

Student Conduct

My experience with philosophy suggests that it is a far more enjoyable undertaking when students have read and re-read the material and are otherwise prepared with questions and ideas, but, just as importantly, are willing to be open to the ideas presented in the reading material, in lecture, and from one another; that is, students should engage the material both sympathetically and critically. I encourage you to seek me out with difficulties and puzzlements, to talk to each other and to friends, and to engage the ideas in their complexity. This is a class where your objections and ideas are welcome.

An important aspect of philosophic practice is the practice of dialogue, that is, the exchange of ideas between persons for the purpose of pursuing a common understanding.

To allow for the uninterrupted flow of ideas within our classroom, I will ask that students turn off all portable devices and refrain from texting and other such interactions. Laptops are allowed for the taking of notes only.

We will likely discuss many controversial or sensitive subjects. I ask that all students treat one another, and myself, with respect, even and especially during disagreement. This respect also includes being present in class on time, remaining for the entire class, and spending class time focused on the material at hand.

Electronic Devices

I do understand that many of you have obligations that may, from time to time, require you keep your cell phones on and accessible. Please be sure to silence your ringer upon entering class. If you receive an important text that can be attending to quickly, please do so as quietly as possible. If you receive a phone call that you must take, please quietly exit the classroom, take the call, and return when you are finished. Be mindful of others in class trying to learn.

PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Please refer to our Philosophy program page for information on student groups and organizations.

<https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy>

You can also follow our philosophy club Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/HCC-Philosophy-Club-88672027009/>

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

EGLS³

The EGLS³ (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. EGLS³ 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
<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

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