



**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 | #20134**

Semester 2021 | 16 Weeks Jan 19<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>

Online Synchronous | Virtual | Monday/Wednesday 12:30 to 1:50

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Lamont Rodgers

Office: Learning Hub Room 305

HCC Email: lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu

Office Phone: 713-718-5598

Office Hours: virtual by appointment

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](mailto:Lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu)

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

**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 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ARE SUPPLIED 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
- Abiding by 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

## 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

**The third exam is the final.**

### Grading Formula

**A = 90% to 100% 4 points per semester hour**

**B = 80% to 89.9% 3 points per semester hour**

**C = 70% to 79.9% 2 points per semester hour**

**D = 60% to 69.9% point per semester hour**

**F = 0% to 59.9% 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**

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.

**HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:**  
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

### **Incomplete Policy:**

In order to be considered for a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 75% of the coursework. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor or to submit requisite work to complete the course and be assigned a grade. Student and instructor should execute a statement of work to be completed. A grade of incomplete which has not been made up after six months from the end of the term in which the "I" was assigned will be converted to an "F." In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

**HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:**  
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

### **Withdrawal Policy:**

Students may withdraw themselves on or before the withdrawal date. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course. If students stop attending the class and don't withdraw by this date, they are subject to the FX grading policy. Instructors cannot withdraw students after the withdrawal date.

## **Course Calendar**

Jan 19th to Feb. 14th: Module 1 Work is due by the end of the day on Feb. 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 5th.: Module 3 work is due by the end of the day on May 5th. 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 day of our final exam. 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**

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. You are expected to be familiar with HCC's policy on Academic Honesty. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. To be clear, plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without giving credit), collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit), and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty can be given a grade of "F" or "0" for the particular test or assignment involved, assigned a failing grade in the course, and/or referred to the Dean of Student Services for further disciplinary action. In extreme cases or for repeated violations, guilty students are recommended for probation or dismissal from the College.

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**

HCC Policy is that you can miss up to but not exceed 12.5% of class hours, which is equivalent to 6 hours in this course. If you have not attended class before the official date of record, you will be automatically withdrawn from the course by the registrar. Students who are withdrawn for nonattendance will not be reinstated. Although it is your responsibility to withdraw from a course, the instructor has the authority to withdraw you for excessive absences. You may be withdrawn from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the total hours of instruction (6 hours for this course).

**Online on a Schedule Courses** – Failure to log in during your scheduled class time and/or failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to being absent.

## **PHILOSOPHY Program Information**

Add program-specific information such as the following:

- PHIL Majors
- Careers in PHIL
- HCC PHIL Student Organizations
- PHIL Scholarships

Provide details for each or include links to the information

## **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.  
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Houston, TX 77013

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham>