

Introduction to Ethics

PHIL 2306 – 14275

Distance Learning

Office Hours and Location: Room 305 Stafford Learning Hub. Monday 10:15 to 10:55 am and Tuesday 9 am to 9:25 am

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Course Description:

Classical and contemporary theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, and moral and ethical standards (Texas ACGM). A philosophical reflection of the basic principles of the moral life, including the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom as they apply to individual right, business, medicine, and community well being (HCC Course Catalog).

Fulfills – unless otherwise noted – the HCC CORE Humanities Area credit. May fulfill Ethics requirement for various academic and professional four-year college majors and Philosophy AAdegree

**Plan. Students who are in doubt about their enrollment in this course should immediately see an HCC academic counselor who can review his or her AA-degree plan.**

**Course Goals:**

This course provides a practical, community-minded introduction to questions of character and human excellence in a multi-cultural, global environment. Traditional and contemporary views concerning the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom serve as points of departure for this largely thematic inquiry into right conduct and ways of thinking that leads to that conduct. Particular emphasis is placed on the scope and problems of sound reasoning and decision-making and may include correlative inquiries into current social, workforce, and professional moral issues.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto: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/>.

### Student Support

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. A student who is academically dishonest 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 Dishonesty located at <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Pleading ignorance of the rules, including improper documentation (MLA, APA, etc....) is no justification for academic dishonesty.

Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat will not have an opportunity to resubmit their work and they will receive a grade of 0 for the first assignment, an F in the course for a

second assignment, and a report in our Maxient system which could lead to dismissal from the college.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Recall and Identify** the major thinkers, schools, core philosophical questions, terms and concepts found in the history of ethics cross-culturally construed, from ancient times to the contemporary world.
2. **Interpret and Explain** core ethical questions and concepts in terms that illustrate a comprehensive understanding of each.
3. **Apply** core ethical questions and concepts to contemporary issues and personal experience.
4. **Compare and Contrast** related core ethical questions and concepts, and the correlative thinkers and schools with which they are commonly associated, and with professional codes.
5. **Justify** a sound philosophical position on a topic, or topics of contemporary human interest in the area of ethics, including its relation to freedom and human rights, that **Integrates** and **Logically Demonstrates** a **Synthesis** in thought.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1.1 **Acquire** a broad familiarity with the names of major thinkers, the schools they represent, geographical location, and historical periods.

1.2 **Learn** historically significant questions of ethics, definitions of special terms, and concepts of ethics and ethical decision-making.

2.1 **Cultivate** reading comprehension of writings specific to ethics and cultivation of character.

2.2 **Distinguish** various approaches to ethics, including conceptual analysis and practical bases for ethical decision-making.

3.1 **Articulate** the relevance of ethics and questioning about ethics to everyday life.

3.2 **Consider** how ethics may or may not apply to differing ways of thinking and cultural influences.

4.1 **Inventory, Summarize, and Assess** correlative questions, concepts, and schools of thought found in the history of ethics, both personal and professional.

5.1 **Create and cultivate** alternative ethical positions on presented course content.

5.2 **Develop coherent arguments** for chosen positions, bringing to bear the rules of logic, written expression and disciplined thinking.

5.3 **Critique** chosen positions and adequately **Defend** against possible objections, both theoretical and applied.

ETIQUETTE: This is an online course. We will interact a bit though. Students will behave as if this were a face-to-face course. You are welcome to challenge others and you will be required to disagree with others at times. However, you should be cordial and professional.

This requirement extends to interactions with the professor as well. Students will not presume to lecture the professor; they will be respectful and professional. The professor will return the favor. Deviation will result in one warning and then a formal report will be filed with campus police.

Required Texts: All Readings are available in Canvas.

Notice About Online Learning Management Software: This is a web-enhanced lecture course that uses Canvas. The Canvas Login page is: [eagleonline.hccs.edu](http://eagleonline.hccs.edu) 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.

You do not need to purchase anything for this class. However, you need access to Canvas. Students need to access the readings during class. So either have a reliable electronic device on which to access the readings or print the readings ahead of time and bring them to class.

IMPORTANT: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. There are no technology based excuses in this course. If your internet is down or you can't access the material, *that does not matter*. If you anticipate such issues, this is not the course for you.

10 Quizzes worth 80 points each. (800 points) These quizzes are on all the material that preceded them. Thus, each quiz is cumulative in the sense that all the material from previous quizzes is fair game.

Since this is a distance learning class, all quizzes are open book and open note. I strongly discourage you from taking the quizzes before having read the material and looking at the practice quizzes. Please see the syllabus for deadlines. They are written in stone.

3 Discussion Forums worth 70 points each. (210 points) The professor regards these forums as presentations. Students will write in complete sentences on the college level. If students claim that something is true, students will provide evidence for their claims.

Each forum will focus on a different issue. The specific requirements and a relevant rubric for each forum are available in the Discussions section. If you are not sure what you need to do, you must more than 24 hours before the deadline.

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.

Course Calendar:

Module 1: Quizzes 1 through 4, and the first Discussion Board are due by February 7th at the end of the day. The quizzes and discussion will lock at that point.

Module 2: Quizzes 5 to 8, and the second Discussion Board are due by March 24th at the end of the day. The quizzes and discussion will lock at that point.

Module 3: Quizzes 9 and 10, and the third Discussion Board are due by May 3rd at the end of the day. The quizzes and discussion will lock at that point.

Note: It is very tempting for distance learning students to try to blast through the material. This might mean that students try to do the work very quickly or it might mean that they try to do a lot in one sitting. If you try to do this, you will probably do badly in this course. Learning the concepts of philosophy is not easy. The field is not a joke. I say this to warn you that you will struggle if you adopt either of these approaches.