HCC | HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences
Philosophy Department
https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/

Phil 2306: Introduction to Ethics | Lecture | #14577
Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks
Lecture | Stafford Learning Hub Room 22 | TTh 9:30 to 10:50am
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Lamont Rodgers   Office Phone: 713-718-5598
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. 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 2306 will use Canvas (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 course material is available 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 is a systemic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value. 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.

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 knowledge and 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.
5. Apply relevant ethical theories to daily activities, and to issues in contemporary debates.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Learning Objectives

1.1 Read canonical texts and contemporary articles in the philosophical tradition of ethics.
1.2 Analyze, **discuss**, and **critique** philosophical texts and ethical questions through open annotation exercises, papers, and discussion forums.
1.3 Analyze and **critique** philosophical texts and practical ethical questions in papers and tests.
2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in philosophical ethics.
2.2 Recognize key concepts in regular quizzes.
2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers studied in the course through papers and assignments.
3 Present logically persuasive arguments in papers and tests.
4.1 Engage in critical thinking through discussion forums, papers, and tests.

4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in all written work.

5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility in papers and discussion forums.

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

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.

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

A term paper on a topic assigned by the instructor. The due date is listed on the reading schedule. No late papers are accepted. This is a writing intensive course. You must submit a term paper to pass the class. If you plagiarize your term paper, you will receive a zero on it. There are no second chances not to plagiarize. (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 miss one of the first two exams, your next one will count double. If you arrive one second late for an exam, you have missed it. 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 more than 10, but I count only the highest 10. There are neither excused assignments nor make-up 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 your 10 lowest grades if you cheat.

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)

Note: If you cheat on one assignment, you fail the assignment. If you cheat on two assignments, you fail the class.

Final Exam

Our final exam is just the third exam.

Grading Formula

900 TO 1,000 POINTS = A

800 TO 899 POINTS = B

700 TO 799 POINTS = C

600 TO 699 POINTS =D

<600 POINTS = F

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

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.

Aug 27: Introduction

SECTION 1: ARGUMENTS AND MORAL REASONING

Aug. 29: Do Reading 1 in Canvas

Sept. 3: Read Benedict in Canvas; In-Class 1

Sept 5: Read James Rachels in Canvas; In-Class 2

Sept. 10: Macbrayer in Canvas; In-Class 3

Sept. 12: Read James Rachels on the Divine Command Theory in Canvas; (In-class 4)

Sept. 17: Rachels again; In-Class 5

Sept. 19: Review

Sept. 24: Exam 1

ETHICAL THEORIES

Sept. 26: Read Bentham and Mill in Canvas

Oct. 1: Read Bentham 2 in Canvas; In-Class 6

Oct. 3.: Read Mill 2 in Canvas; In-class 7

Oct. 8: Read Kant in Canvas; In-Class 8

Oct. 10: Kant again; In-Class 8

Oct 15.: Kant again; In-Class 9

Oct. 17: Finish Kant; In-Class 10

Oct. 22: Review

Oct. 24: Exam 2

PRACTICAL ETHICS

Oct. 29: Return exams and begin Thomson

Oct. 31 Thomson; In-Class 11

Nov. 5: Thomson; In-Class 12

Nov. 7: Introduce Marquis

Nov. 12: Marquis; In-class 13

Nov. 14: Sinott-Armstrong; In-class 14

Nov. 19: Sinott-Armstrong; In-class 15

Nov. 21: Free writing day

Nov. 26: Review for Final

Nov. 28: NO CLASS

Dec. 3: WORKSHOP

Dec. 5: FINAL EXAM; A PHYSICAL COPY OF YOUR TERM PAPER IS DUE BEFORE THE EXAM BEGINS

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

See the assignments section above.

Academic Integrity

See the assignments section above. Consider including the following statement: 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[3]

The EGLS[3] (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[3] 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

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