

SYLLABUS

Academic Discipline

Philosophy

Course Title

Introduction to Philosophy

Course Rubric and Number

PHIL 1301 – CRN 51682

Location and Meeting Days and Times

Katy Campus, Room 347

Tuesday and Thursday – 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH)

3 SCH – Regular Term

Contact Hours

48 Contact Hours

Course Length

16 weeks

Type of Instruction

Lecture and Web-Enhanced

Instructor Contact Information

Michael Barkasi, Instructor

Department of English, Philosophy, Communications and Humanites

E-Mail Conferencing: michael.barkasi@hccs.edu

Instructor Office Location and Hours

Campus: Katy

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday by appointment

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 – Approval Number: 38.0101.51 12)

This course is 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 Catalog) CORE CURRICULUM COURSE

CORE Requirements, Certificates, AA-Degree Plan, and Transfer Information

HCC CORE HUMANITIES OR MULTICULTURAL AREA, or **Elective**.
Fulfills Philosophy requirement for various academic and professional four-year college majors and Philosophy AA-degree Plan. Women and Gender Studies Certificate course. DISCIPLINE NOTICE: Students who are pursuing an HCC AA-degree plan are advised that except as noted, this course may not be used to satisfy any other HCC CORE requirement, though it may satisfy certain transfer institution college major requirements. 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.

Prerequisites

ENGL 1301 or Department Permission

Course Goals

The basis for this inquiry is drawn from history, theories, their application, methods of reasoning, and carried forward to more recent thinkers and issues. Included is the growing emergence of women's, minority, and non-western voices in philosophy. Accordingly, this course should not be construed as history-bound, or strictly western in its perspective. Its thematic elements are contemporary, including the nature and abiding presence of philosophizing in human discourse, and this discipline's impact on current developments in science, the humanities, and political/social order in world cultures.

Expected Learning Outcomes

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

Course 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 philosophy, definitions of special terms, and concepts of knowledge, ethics, and human condition.
- 2.1 Cultivate** reading comprehension of philosophical writings.
- 2.2 Distinguish** various approaches to interpretation, including conceptual analysis, testing for validity, determining if sound or not sound.
- 3.1 Articulate** the relevance of philosophy and philosophical questioning to everyday life.
- 3.2 Consider** how philosophy 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 ideas.
- 5.1 Create and cultivate** alternative philosophical 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.

CORE Curriculum Competencies

This course stresses the HCC CORE Competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy.

Course Calendar

See Blackboard Online Course Calendar - Check course calendar regularly for updates and revisions. It is intended to be a guide, not a straight-jacket. Depending on class learning progress, your instructor reserves the right to either accelerate, or slow the completion of course curriculum *per the* Calendar tool.

Instructional Methods and Internet Component

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Blackboard Vista*. The HCC *Blackboard Vista* logon page is:

<http://hccs.blackboard.com>

Your *Blackboard Vista* ID is now the same as your HCC User ID which is used for Online Registration. [For example: W0034567] If you don't know your HCC User ID, there is a link on the logon page

that you can click on to retrieve it. Your default *Blackboard Vista* password at the beginning of the term is: "distance". You will be asked to change it the first time you logon. PLEASE SELECT A NEW PASSWORD YOU WILL REMEMBER!!! This password is independent of your Online Registration password. It is your responsibility to change your password. Once logged on, you will come to a page that shows this course and all other courses in which you are enrolled that have online sections, including those designated as either hybrid, or DE. To enter this course, simply click on the course name to be taken to the course homepage.

Text Information:

Required Texts:

Grube

Plato: Five Dialogues

Hackett Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2002
ISBN 978-0-87220-633-5

Early Buddhist Discourses

Edited and Translated by John J. Holder//Hackett Publishing
1st Edition, 2006//ISBN #: 0-87220-792-7

Descartes, Rene

Discourse On Method and Meditations On First Philosophy

Hackett Publishing

4th Edition, 1999

ISBN 0-87220-420-0

Atherton, Katherine, ed.

Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period

Hackett Publishing, 1994

ISBN 0-87220-259-3

Sartre, Jean-Paul

Existentialism and Human Emotions

Citadel Press-Kensington Publishing, 1987

ISBN 0806509023

Weston, Anthony

A Rule Book for Arguments

Hackett Publishing, 5th Edition, 2010

ISBN: 0-87220-552-5

Recommended Additional Sources:

Curd, Patricia

A Presocratics Reader

Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 1996

ISBN 0-87220-326-3

Irwin, Fine

ARISTOTLE Introductory Readings

Hackett Publishing, 1996

ISBN 0-87220-339-5

Augustine

Against the Academicians and The Teacher

Hackett Publishing

1st Edition, 1995//ISBN 0-87220-212-7

Heidegger, Martin

The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays

Harper Collins Publishers, Incorporated, 1st Edition, 1977

ISBN 0-16131-969-4

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office, and to do so in a reasonable manner.

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future Students, then 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 your college.

District ADA Coordinator - Donna Price - 713.718.5165

Northwest ADA Counselor - Mahnaz Kolaini - 713.718.5422

Academic Honesty

The pressure to earn high grades and belief that ***a good end can justify any means whatsoever*** leads many students to try cutting corners by resorting to less than honest methods. Do yourself a favor by avoiding that trap. The HCC ***Student Handbook*** lists cheating, plagiarism, and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines ***plagiarism*** as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit." It defines ***collusion*** as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit." Work submitted for this course that is determined to be the result of either cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will earn a "0" for that assignment, and may cause the student to receive either an "F", or "I" in the course depending on your professor's stated

requirements for the assignment and the weight it carries in determining your course grade. Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript. Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. *See Student Handbook.*

It is this instructors policy that all academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism and collusion) will result in an automatic zero for the assignment.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences will be maintained throughout the semester. NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO DROP, OR OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM THIS COURSE IF, FOR ANY REASON, THAT STUDENT IS NO LONGER ATTENDING. NEW RULES ARE IN EFFECT THAT GREATLY CHANGE HOW AND WHEN THAT CAN BE DONE. YOU WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM THIS COURSE BY YOUR PROFESSOR. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE POSSIBLE PENALTIES OTHER THAN LOSING ONE'S PAID TUITION THAT EVERY STUDENT MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE WITHDRAWING. THESE INCLUDE:

- (1) Students who repeat a course for a third, or more times, may face a significant tuition/fee increase at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities.
- (2) The Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.
- (3) No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw", which for Fall 2011 is Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 4:30 pm. After that date and time, a student can only be given a grade earned, or an "I" for incomplete. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following long semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F". Your instructor will not withdraw you for non-attendance and will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student.

HCC Student Services Information

NORTHWEST COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES provides master's and doctoral-level counseling for high-quality support services for

the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts and completing degree/certificate plans.

STUDENT SERVICES LOCATIONS AND HOURS:

Katy Campus, Suite 104

(713) 718-5751

8:30am–6:30pm Monday thru Thursday

9:00am–1:00pm Friday

Spring Branch Campus

(713) 718-5669

9:00am–7:00pm Monday thru Thursday

9:00am–1:00pm Friday

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

EARLY ALERT: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.

ALL STUDENTS ARE ADVISED: Contact your professor/counselor about opportunities for private tutoring and other assistance prior to considering withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. There are many opportunities available to assure your success!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: Receiving either a “W”, or “I” in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have formally submitted a withdrawal form), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. An “I” does convert to an “F”, but only after six months have passed from the end of the term it was received. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520, if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Grading Components and Course Policies

- **Homework Reading Questions – Approximately 25 assignments, each worth 4 points. For each assigned reading on the course schedule there will be a set of questions which the student must complete and turn in the day we begin discussing the reading. These questions are designed to help the student understand and follow the text and will form the basis of our in class discussion on the reading. Points for the reading**

questions are assigned on an all-or-nothing basis. Four points will be awarded for those assignments which demonstrate a good faith effort to complete the reading. Those answers which appear to be haphazard or guesses will receive zero points. Late homeworks will not be accepted for any reason, but the lowest two homework scores will be dropped.

- **Attendance/Group Work/Class participation – 30 points.** Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions and group work. Missing more than 4 classes, compulsive lateness, and never contributing to discussions or group work will result in a low class participation grade. Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.
- **Midterm Exam:** There will be a midterm exam held at the end of unit three. It will be worth 30 points. Learning Outcome 1.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a comprehensive final exam worth 50 points. Learning Outcome 1.
- **Midterm Essay –** There will be a midterm essay (~2 pages) on an assigned topic due the day of the midterm exam. It will be worth 35 points. An instruction sheet and grading rubric will be distributed far in advance. Learning Outcome 4.
- **Major Essay –** There will be a final essay (~3 pages) worth 55 points due on the scheduled final exam date. Students will have a variety of assigned topics from which to choose. Learning Outcomes 2, 3, and 5.

Essays – Essays will be completed out of class and submitted at the times specified above. Please note, these examinations are essays in answer to a specific question that seeks your understanding of the course content. These essays are not to be construed as being research papers and all questions are to be addressed as asked. Students will not be allowed to use any sources besides the course reading materials and their own lecture notes! The grading of exams follows established standards of critical thinking and philosophical argumentation. Well before each essay an instruction sheet and grading rubric will be made available which gives the question the essay should respond to, formatting guidelines, and a breakdown of how points will be assigned. As stated above, plagiarism on either essay will result in a “0” for the assignment. Plagiarized assignments cannot be redone or made up. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!**

Late Essays – 4 points will be taken off midterm essays which are late. 8 points will be taken off midterm essays which are more than a week late. 10 points will be deducted from final major essays which are late. Final essays more than 2 days late will not be accepted. You will literally have a few weeks to work on each essay, so being late because you waited until the last minute and then had an emergency is not a legitimate excuse.

Exam Make up policy – Students who know in advanced that they will miss class the day of the midterm should contact the instructor ahead of time to make arrangements. Students who miss class the day of the midterm because of an emergency (e.g. a close family member dies or a child must

be taken to the hospital) or circumstances out of their control (e.g. your car breaks down on the way to school) will be allowed to make up the exam within two days, if evidence can be provided. Make-up examinations are taken by appointment at the campus Testing Center. The final exam cannot be made up.

Incompletes – Students who have otherwise done well in the course but miss the final exam or essay due to extraordinary circumstances should contact me as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of taking an incomplete for the course.

Minimum Writing Requirement (Per Philosophy Discipline)

4,000 Words (Required discussions, blogs, essays, exams)

Grading Policy

All grades will be figured according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is approximately 300. The term grade legend and analysis are as follows:

A = 90% to 100%
B = 80% to 89.9%
C = 70% to 79.9%
D = 60% to 69.9%
F = 0% to 59.9%

Make-up policy

Students are responsible for materials covered in-class and online during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to contact and consult with the instructor for make-up assignments (AFTER CHECKING THE ONLINE BLACKBOARD COURSE CALENDAR).

Additional Course Content

This is a course about the origins of philosophical discourse and history of ideas, including the formalization of logic and sound argument, and their relation to our concept of knowledge and learning. The standards of thinking and expression found in philosophy embrace every principle and method found in core critical thinking competencies. Readings are taken from a range of primary sources beginning with ancient philosophers, then to the medieval period, the moderns, and finally to thinkers on the contemporary scene. Selected readings must include works by women and non-western thinkers and are assessed by exams, quizzes, presentations, and discussions. Students must write at least 4,000 words during this course. This number is achieved in a variety of ways, including online submissions for required BLACKBOARD discussion forum posts and essay examinations. The evaluation of written work adheres to the professional teaching standards of philosophy for content and correct grammar. Students are advised that computer knowledge,

word processing skills, and data base learning and research skills are necessary to complete this course. Help is available for students who lack these skills.

Tutoring Information

Limited face-to-face tutoring is available from the course instructor during office hours, or by appointment. In addition, all PHILOSOPHY students are encouraged to use HCC's online tutoring system for help with any philosophy class. Questions submitted to the ASK queue will be answered within 24 hours – and usually much before that. Tutors are on duty 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Online tutors will not do homework for you, but they will guide you in the right direction. To maximize the effectiveness of the system, be specific when you ask questions, and let the tutor know what class you are taking. You will receive two responses – one from an English tutor and one from a philosophy tutor.

Registering for online tutoring is easy. Go to www.hccs.askonline.net. Select a user name and password that you will remember. Use any e-mail address, and add your student ID number (W number). It will probably take five minutes to set up your Askonline account. After that, you can submit questions in seconds. Tutor responses are not e-mailed to you. To see the answers, log back in to the system and click the bright yellow NEW button.

Online tutoring is also available for accounting, history, government, chemistry, physics, biology, math, English, and papers in all disciplines.