



# Philosophy Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL 1301  
Fall 2018 (35958, 36529) (3 Credit Hours)

HCC –  
Office Central Campus, SJ 328 (desk 322.2)

Office Hour: by appointment

Instructor: Nathan Poage

Learning Web Page:  
<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/nathan.poage>

Email: nathan.poage@hccs.edu

Phone: 713.718.6064 (use email for  
faster response)

**This syllabus is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the professor**

**This course uses the HCC student email for each student. If you do not use this email you may miss important updates and assignments. Students who do not use HCC email for communication in this class and miss assignments accordingly are responsible for their missed work and will not receive credit for missed assignments, etc.**

**Students who wish to withdraw from the course are responsible for doing so. If a student remains in the class without withdrawing they will receive a grade in the course.**

## **Course Description:**

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.

## **PREREQUISITE(S):**

- ENGL 1301 or higher

## **HCC CORE CURRICULUM:**

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.

### **Course Goals:**

Understand the meaning of philosophy and its subdisciplines

Analyze philosophical arguments

Remember key terms and figures in the history of philosophy

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 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:**

Understand the meaning of philosophy and its subdisciplines

Analyze philosophical arguments

Remember key terms and figures in the history of philosophy

### **Notice About Online Learning Management Software:**

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses Eagle Online Canvas. The *Eagle Online* login page is:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

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](#).

IMPORTANT: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download it free, [here](#). (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)

### **Adopted Texts:**

**Plato // *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*** //Hackett Publishing  
2nd Edition, 2002//ISBN 0-87220-633-5

**Descartes // *Discourse on Method and Meditations*** //Hackett Publishing  
4th Edition, 1999//ISBN 0-87220-420-0

**Gandhi // *Selected Political Writings***//Hackett Publishing 1st Edition, 1996//ISBN 0-87220-330-1

(These are the required textbooks).

All Distance Education texts are found at HCCS - Central, 1300 Holman Street, Houston, Tx., 77004. The phone number is 713 - 528-0872. You may call and ask for your text to be delivered to a campus closer to you. You may also purchase your text online by going to [www.hccs.bkstore.com](http://www.hccs.bkstore.com) and selecting Textbooks, and then click on Click Here, then find your DE course title.

### **Course Calendar (tentative) [For further details see Eagle Online calendar tool]:**

First unit: Plato's *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito*

Second unit: Plato's *Meno* and *Phaedo*

Third unit: Descartes' *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations*

Fourth unit: Gandhi

### **Grading Components and Weights :**

**Two Essays 2-4 pages long; MLA format; double spaced; with a work cited page at the end of the essay 100 points each for a total of 200 points;**

**Three online quizzes (50 points each) for a total of 150 points.**

**One Final (comprehensive 200)**

**Discussions (variable number) (these end with each of the quizzes) (total of 100 points possible)**

Essays: Each student will complete **two two- four page essays**. The essays satisfy the intellectual competencies of reading, writing, critical thinking, and computer literacy. Essays should be in standard MLA format and should be carefully proofread and free from errors. Students who plagiarize on essays will receive a 0 for that assignment or a grade at the discretion of the professor. If a student plagiarizes twice on separate assignments then the student will receive an "F" in the course at the discretion of the professor. **Plagiarism is the intentional or negligent copying or paraphrasing of sources without proper citation.** Essays are assigned according to topics. Topics are given in the assignment section on the Eagle Online course. Students are required to write on one of the topics assigned. Essays count for 100 points each. Essays are typically graded within one week of due date. Students should submit

essays only as doc, docx, rtf or pdf file types. Essays submitted in another file format may not be readable. All unreadable essays will not be graded and will be marked late if students are required to resubmit essay. Students should cite the text as the primary source and use at least one external secondary source of an academic nature besides Wikipedia, Sparknotes or Cliffsnotes. All essays should include a works cited page at the end of the essay using standard MLA format. All emailed essays receive a one grade deduction in addition to any late deduction.

Students will have a **comprehensive final exam worth 200 points**.

**100 points are available for class discussions. The discussions close with the quiz they cover.** For instance, the first discussions on the *Apology* and *Euthyphro* close with the quiz on the *Apology* and the *Euthyphro*. No late discussions allowed. Late discussions will not receive points.

### **Grading Policy:**

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 650. The term grade legend follows:

A = 90% to 100% (650 to 585 points)	4 points per semester hour
B = 80% to 89.9% (584 to 520 points)	3 points per semester hour
C = 70% to 79.9% (519 to 455 points)	2 points per semester hour
D = 60% to 69.9% (454- 390 points)	1 point per semester hour
F = 0% to 59.9% (389-0 points)	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.

### **Late Policy:**

Late essays. Essays will be marked down 10 points every calendar day they are late starting after 12 hours of lateness. It is the student's responsibility to verify that their essay was submitted to the online assignments section correctly and fully. Incorrect essays submitted or blank essays submitted which require the resubmission of essays will incur the above late penalty. Essays and late work will not be accepted after the last day of class unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. In addition students are responsible for ensuring that their essays are submitted in readable file format on time. Students who submit unreadable essays may receive late deductions on the essays at the discretion of the professor. Emailed essays in addition to the above deduction for lateness receive a one grade deduction for being emailed.

### **Course Tutoring:**

*!! Philosophy Tutoring is available at by clicking on the Tutoring tab of the course from Upswing. **Please use it if you need it !!***

### **Academic Honesty:**

*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 **may** not have an opportunity to resubmit their work and they **may** 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.

### **Make-up Policy:**

Make ups are available only with a documented excuse of a serious nature. No late assignments are allowed after the final day of class unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. See calendar for final date.

Late essays. Essays will be marked down 10 points every calendar day they are late after 12 hours. Essays and late work will not be accepted after the last day of class unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

### **Attendance and Withdrawal Policy:**

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences may be maintained throughout the semester. NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to drop, or officially withdraw from this course. Your instructor will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student within the time limits set by the academic course calendar. Additionally, system-wide rules affect withdrawals:

- (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 varies by course (For details see the academic calendar: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/>). After these dates and times, 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". Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services.

If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodation, please contact the appropriate

Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your instructor's receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be requested at any time during the semester, however if an accommodation letter is provided to the instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the instructor to implement the accommodations.

### **Ability Service Contact Information**

#### **Central College**

713-718-6164

#### **Coleman College**

713-718-7376

#### **Northeast College**

713-718-8322

#### **Northwest College**

713-718-5422

713-718-5408

#### **Southeast College**

713-718-7144

#### **Southwest College**

713-718-5910

#### **Adaptive Equipment/ Assistive Technology**

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

#### **Interpreting and CART services**

713-718-6333

### **EGLS3 – Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System:**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

### **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 77266-7517 or 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/>.