



**Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences
Philosophy Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/>

Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | Lecture | 12630, 12418

Summer Five Week 2021 | (12418)6/7/2021-7/11/2021 (12630) 7/12/2021-8/15/2021

Online | Online | Online

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Nathan Poage Office Phone: 713.718.6064
Office: Office Hours: By appointment
HCC Email: nathan.poage@hccs.edu Office Location: SJ 328

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

nathan.poage@hccs.edu I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

My Personal Welcome

Greetings! My name is Nathan Poage and I will be your instructor for Introduction to Philosophy. I am delighted that you have chosen this course! I believe the study of philosophy is one of the most worthwhile endeavors one can embark upon and I am looking forward to getting to know all of you in the upcoming semester. It is my goal that you all end this course with a dedication to clear, critical thinking and the courage to face and evaluate some of life's biggest questions. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have as we progress through the semester. I am dedicated to your success and will do all I can to try to help you.

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

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 and selecting Textbooks, and then click on Click Here, then find your DE course title.

Other Instructional Resources

ADD ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES HERE

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

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.

(THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR)

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

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. Essays should be saved only as doc, docx files if at all possible. Files should be saved as last name_first name_assignment number. For example if this is the first essay assignment and your name is Jennifer Salazar you would save your file as "Salazar_J_1".

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)
B = 80% to 89.9% (584 to 520 points)

4 points per semester hour
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.

Exams

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

One Final (comprehensive 200)

In-Class Activities

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.

Final Exam

200 point comprehensive final exam. True false and matching questions. Review notes and previous quizzes as a study guide.

Grading Formula

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.

Incomplete Policy:

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

Weeks One- Three: Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*

Weeks Four-Eight: Plato's *Meno* and *Phaedo*

Weeks Nine-Thirteen: Descartes' *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations*

Weeks Fourteen-Sixteen: Gandhi

Note in the five week course each two days is approximately a week

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.

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. This also applies to essays which have to be emailed due to the fact that they are submitted as unreadable or corrupted files.

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 Anytime Courses - Failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to being absent.

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.

Flex Courses - Failure to attend class in person or virtually during your scheduled class time and/or failure to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments) is equivalent to being absent. In order to maintain social distancing, you will be assigned specific days to attend class in person. When attending class in person, only attend on the days you have been assigned, else you will not be permitted to enter the classroom. When attending class virtually, you are expected to turn your cameras on during class.

Student Conduct

My experience with philosophy suggests that it is a far more enjoyable undertaking when students have read and re-read the material and are otherwise prepared with questions and ideas, but, just as importantly, are willing to be open to the ideas presented in the reading material, in lecture, and from one another; that is, students should engage the material both sympathetically and critically. I encourage you to seek me out with difficulties and puzzlements, to talk to each other and to friends, and to engage the ideas in their complexity. This is a class where your objections and ideas are welcome.

An important aspect of philosophic practice is the practice of dialogue, that is, the exchange of ideas between persons for the purpose of pursuing a common understanding.

To allow for the uninterrupted flow of ideas within our classroom, I will ask that students turn off all portable devices and refrain from texting and other such interactions. Laptops are allowed for the taking of notes only.

We will likely discuss many controversial or sensitive subjects. I ask that all students treat one another, and myself, with respect, even and especially during disagreement. This respect also includes being present in class on time, remaining for the entire class, and spending class time focused on the material at hand.

Electronic Devices

I do understand that many of you have obligations that may, from time to time, require you keep your cell phones on and accessible. Please be sure to silence your ringer upon entering class. If you receive an important text that can be attending to quickly, please do so as quietly as possible. If you receive a phone call that you must take, please quietly exit the classroom, take the call, and return when you are finished. Be mindful of others in class trying to learn.

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

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([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. EGLS³ 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>