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 | #15443

Semester 2019 | 16 Weeks 8/26-12/15/2019
Face to Face | West Loop C222 | T Th 11AM-12:15
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Nathan Poage   Office Phone:713.718.6064
Office:SJ328   Office Hours: By appointment
HCC Email:nathan.poage@hccs.edu   Office Location: Central College

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. (THIS SECTION MAY BE EDITED BY INSTRUCTOR)

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

Bioethics: An Anthology	**Kuhse, Helga and Singer, Peter**	Blackwell 3rd Ed. 2016	ISBN 978-1-118-94150-8
Handouts to be provided			

Other Instructional Resources

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.
(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 (THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

There is one **three to four** page **paper**. (100 points: A+ counts as 100) Each paper should make reference to the text[s] in the MLA format (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/). Each paper should be a discussion of one of the assigned themes or topics announced (or some other relevant topic with prior approval from the instructor). Essays should use the text/ reading as the primary source and at least one external secondary source excluding *Sparknotes* and *Cliffsnotes*. All students who struggle with composition are encouraged to attend the Writing Center (http://ccollege.hccs.edu/instru/english/writing_center_lab.htm) or submit essays to upswing.io for assistance with composition and proofreading. This class is not a class in composition but presupposes that students understand the basics of grammar and composition. Late essays are marked down one grade letter for every calendar day late. Emailed essays receive a one grade deduction for being emailed and subsequent deductions after 12 hours of lateness.

Once during the semester students will be required to present a brief presentation using a visual aid such as PowerPoint, Prezi or a handout. **Presentations** should be no more than 5 to 10 minutes in length. **Presentations should have a works cited slide at the end of all sources used or referred to. Presentations are assigned in two groups. The first group will be comprised of students whose last name starts with the letters A-M. These students will present presentations on the date assigned over essay topic/ presentation topic One. The second group of students will present at the end of the semester. This second group is comprised of students whose last name starts with the letters N- Z. This second group of students presents on presentation two topics.**

No late presentations are permitted. So if a student misses their day to present they will not be able to make it up. Presentations count for 100 points.

Exams

There are three tests (100 points each). Each test consists of matching and true and false questions. **Make up tests are available only with prior approval or documented excuse of a serious nature**. This means if you miss the test and haven't already cleared your absence with me in advance you will earn a "0" on the test and will not be able to make it up. The last test is the final exam, which may be comprehensive at the discretion of the instructor.

In-Class Activities

There are 100 points possible for participation. This grade is based on short in class assignments. These cannot be made up.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is the third exam

Grading Formula

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 600. The term grade legend follows:
A = 90% to 100% (600 to 540 point)   4 points per semester hour
B = 80% to 89.9% (539 to 480 points)   3 points per semester hour

C = 70% to 79.9% (479-420 points)   2 points per semester hour
D = 60% to 69.9% (419- 360 points)   1 point per semester hour
F = 0% to 59.9%   (000 to 359 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/

Course Calendar

Weeks 1-5 Ethical Theory (Aristotle)
Weeks 6-8 Ethical Theory (Aquinas, Bentham, Mill)
Weeks 9-12 Ethical Theory (Kant)
Weeks 13-15 Bioethics to be determined
Weeks 16 Review/ presentations

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

Late essays are marked down one grade letter for every calendar day late after 12 hours. Late in class assignments are not accepted. Emailed essays receive a one grade deduction in addition to any late deduction.

Late presentations are not permitted

Makeup exams required documentation.

Academic Integrity

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. 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

Students are required to regularly attend class. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from class. Students who are dropped for non attendance may not be reinstated.

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 class 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

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Houston, TX 77013

http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham