



**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 | #14840

Spring 2020 | 16 Weeks 1/21/2020 – 5/17/2020

Lecture | T/TH 9:30-11AM | West Loop C223

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: Central 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. Please note: The best way to contact me is through my HCCS email. Messages sent directly through canvas often do not reach me promptly.

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.

About This Course

This course is an introduction to a fundamental aspect of human existence—the search for meaning and wisdom in our individual and social realities. Philosophy is the oldest and most varied of any academic discipline, and the practice of philosophy demands exercise and development of the highest critical faculties. Thus we shall treat philosophy for both its historical and practical aspects, and will focus specifically upon a number of perennial philosophic questions that philosophers have raised for 2500 years, such as how do I know what is true?; what do “good” and “evil” mean?; what does it mean to say something is beautiful?; what is the good life?; what is the best form of governance for a society?

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. Please be sure you are able to access canvas and are familiar with it before the beginning of class. Please do not email for make-up due to vacations, home connectivity issues, home computer issues and so on. If you are having trouble with your computer, there are computers available at any public library and HCC campus.

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.

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.

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

One Essays 2-4 pages long; MLA format; double spaced; with a work cited page at the end of the essay using the text as the primary source and at least one external source other than *Sparknotes* or *Cliffnotes*; 100 points each for a total of 100 points

One Presentation 5-10 minutes with a visual aid (such as PowerPoint, Prezi, or handout) 100 points each

Extra credit (reviews) variable points

Essays: **Each student will complete one- two to four page essay.** 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. 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 Learning Web for the course. Students are required to write on **only one** of the topics assigned. Essays count for 100 points each. Essays are typically graded within one week of due date. Emailed essays receive a one grade deduction and subsequent deductions after 12 hours of lateness.

Presentation: Each student will provide a 5-10 presentation to the class using a visual aid such as a Powerpoint, Prezi or Handout presentation. All presentations should have five to ten slides should include a works cited page and should have suitable, appropriate and relevant images, such as images of the philosopher presented on. Presentations are assigned by last name. **The first presentation on presentation/ essay one topics will be assigned roughly half way through the class to those students whose last name begins with the letters A-M. The second presentation on presentation two topics will be assigned towards the end of the semester to those students whose last name begins with the letters N-Z. There are no make-ups for presentations. This means that if you miss your presentation time there will not be an alternate time for you to make it up.**

Grading Policy:

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.

Exams

Three exams worth 100 points each.

In-Class Activities

Short Writings (in class) count for a total of 100 points (variable number). Cannot be made up if missed.

Final Exam

The final exam is the third test

Grading Formula

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FX (Failure due to non-attendance)	0 points per semester hour
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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.

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

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

PLAGIARISM – (Reference Student Code of Conduct) "Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit. I take this very seriously. The first time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism your assignment will be given the score of zero and you will not be allowed to re-accomplish the assignment. The second time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism you will be

given a zero for the course. If you receive a zero for the course due to plagiarism, you will be reported to the Dean.

If you are unclear what constitutes as plagiarism, please visit our library website at the following address:

http://library.hccs.edu/research_writing/plagiarism

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

Attendance is expected in this class and students who wish to withdraw are responsible for doing so. Students who are removed from 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 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

Please refer to our Philosophy program page for information on student groups and organizations.

<https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy>

You can also follow our philosophy club Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/HCC-Philosophy-Club-88672027009/>

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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555 Community College Dr.
Houston, TX 77013

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