Philosophy
Syllabus

Introduction to Ethics – PHIL 2306-60480

Spring 2018 (3 Credit Hours)

HCC –

Office SJ 328 (desk 322.2) Central Campus

Office hours: 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.

It is the student's responsible to withdraw from the course if they wish to do so. If they remain in the class without withdrawing they will receive a grade.

Course Description:

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 (Texas ACGM). 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 (HCC Catalogue). This course stresses the HCC CORE Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal 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:

Recognize key figures, themes and theories in ethical theory
Recognize select arguments in contemporary Bioethics
Understand and evaluate philosophical arguments in Ethical Theory and Bioethics
Describe and analyze key arguments and counter-arguments in Ethical Theory and Bioethics

Student Learning Outcomes:

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:

Recognize key figures, themes and theories in ethical theory
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Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Canvas: Eagle Online*

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:

Bioethics: An Anthology	**Kuhse, Helga and Singer, Peter**	Wiley Blackwell 3rd Ed. 2006	ISBN 978-1-118-94150-8

Sample Course Calendar (tentative) (see Eagle Online Calendar Tool for further details):

Weeks 1-2: Ethical Theory

Weeks 3-4: Bioethics Before Birth

Weeks 5-6: Bioethics Assisted Reproduction

Weeks 7-8: Bioethics End of Life or Ethics in the Practice of Healthcare

Grading Components and Weights [Selected by Instructor]:

Assessment:
There are **2** 3-4 page **papers**. (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). All students who struggle with composition are encouraged to attend Central College's Writing Center (http://ccollege.hccs.edu/instru/english/writing_center_lab.htm). 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.

There are three tests (50 points each)(not including the final). Each test consists of true false and multiple-choice questions. **Make up tests are available only with prior approval**. 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 is comprehensive.

There is a final exam, which is worth 100 points and is cumulative.

There are discussion questions, which are worth 100 points total. **All discussions must be finished by the time the quiz on the material covered ends. Late discussions will not receive credit.** Extra credit student led discussions can be completed for extra credit. Extra credit discussions also must be completed by the time the quiz on the material closes.

Grading Policy [Example]:

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 550. The term grade legend follows:

A = 90% to 100% (550 to 495 points)	4 points per semester hour
B = 80% to 89.9% (494 to 440 points)	3 points per semester hour
C = 70% to 79.9% (439 to 385 points)	2 points per semester hour
D = 60% to 69.9% (384 to 330 points)	1 point per semester hour
F = 0% to 59.9% (000 to 329 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. However, essays and late work will not be accepted after the last day of class unless with prior arrangements and at the discretion of the instructor. Students are responsible for ensuring that their submitted assignments are in a readable file format and submitted on time. Students who submit essays that are in an unreadable format or not fully submitted may receive a late points deduction at the discretion of the instructor. All emailed essays receive a one grade deduction in addition to any late deduction. This also applies to essays that are submitted as unreadable or corrupted files.

Course Tutoring:

!! Philosophy Tutoring is available at https://hccs.upswing.io/ **Please use it if you need it !!**

Academic Honesty:

<u>Academic Dishonesty</u>: 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.

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 at the discretion of the instructor. See calendar for final date.

Late essays. Essays will be marked down 10 points every calendar day they are late. However, essays and late work will not be accepted after the last day of class except at the instructor's discretion and with prior arrangement. All emailed essays receive a one grade deduction in addition to any late deduction.

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. 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 and semester (For details see the academic calendar: http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/). After that date and time, a student can only be given a grade earned, or an "I" for incomplete. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following long semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F". 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

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/.

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.