



# Philosophy Syllabus

Cooperative in Philosophy, PHIL 2389-47992

Fall 2013, Web-Enhanced (3 Credit Hours)

HCC – Northwest College

Spring Branch Campus, Room 318

T and R 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Instructor: Nathan D. Smith, PhD

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Room 900-D

## Course Description:

An instructional program designed to integrate on-campus study with practical hands-on work experience. In conjunction with class seminars, the student will set specific goals and objectives in the study of philosophy. This course stresses the HCC CORE Competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy.

## PREREQUISITE(S):

- College Level Reading
- College Level Writing

## Course Goals:

This course provides a unique opportunity to engage in close philosophical reflection on a classical text in the history of philosophy while actively working in your community. The cooperative or service learning structure allows students to integrate theoretical study with practical engagement. You will be working at a local, non-profit organization as a volunteer or intern. You will reflect on your experiences in our class discussions and in an online, graded journal.

## Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

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

<https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

Your Eagle Online ID is now the same as your HCC User ID which is used for Online Registration (for example: W0034567). If you don't know your HCC User ID, you can [retrieve it here](#). Your default Eagle Online password at the beginning of the term is: "distance". This

password is independent of your Online Registration password or Blackboard Vista password. You will be required to change your password when you first log in.

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:**

Reiss, Julian. *Philosophy of Economics: A Contemporary Introduction*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

### **Course Calendar:**

March 24 Introduction and Syllabus

March 26 Introduction to Philosophy and Economics

Complete Application for Service Learning Project

March 31 Chapters 1 and 2, *Philosophy of Economics*: Introduction to the Philosophy of the economic science

Journal Entry 1: *First Impressions*

This week you should begin working on your service learning project. Write a short journal entry (less than 500 words) on your first impressions of the project site. Who is your supervisor? What is the organization like? Where are you working and with whom? What have you noticed about the organization and its location?

April 7 Chapters 3 and 5, *Philosophy of Economics*: Rational choice theory and causation in economics

Journal Entry 2: *What are you doing? What have you learned?*

You have entered the second week of work on your service learning project. What activities are you engaged in? What jobs have been assigned to you? What have you learned in your initial training for these tasks?

April 14 Chapters 7 and 8, *Philosophy of Economics*, Models and measurement

### **Mid-Term Paper is due**

Journal Entry 3: *Goals and objectives*

At this point you should be getting settled into your service learning project. Now I want you to identify your goals and objectives for the project this semester. Goals are broad-based outcomes that you hope to achieve; objectives are specific tasks that can be accomplished.

April 21 Chapters 12 and 13, *Philosophy of Economics*: Welfare, markets, and morals

### **Submit journal entries 1-3 for grading**

Journal Entry 4: *Challenges*

In this journal entry, I want you to identify some specific challenges that you have encountered or that you can perceive you will encounter in accomplishing your goals and objectives or in completing the tasks that have been assigned to you during the course of the semester.

April 28 Chapter 14, *Philosophy of Economics*: Inequality and distributive justice

Journal Entry 5: *Personal anecdote*

For this journal entry, you should identify a personal story from your experience working at your service learning project. The story should relate in some way to the content of the course. In other words, select a story that helps you better understand the content from the course or helps to illustrate a concept that we have discussed.

May 5 Chapter 15, *Philosophy of Economics*: Nudging

Journal Entry 6: *Reflections and summation*

This is the last journal entry for the semester. In this entry, try to reflect on your work experience in the service learning project and the course content we have been studying. Is there any way that these things have been integrated in your experience? Review your goals and objectives: were you able to accomplish what you set out to accomplish? Why or why not? Write some summary reflections on the course and the service learning that you engaged in.

May 13 **Complete Journal Due**

**Final Paper Due**

**Grading Components and Weights:**

**1. Reflection journal (200 points).** The journal is a personal reflection exercise that is meant to accompany your service learning project. Each entry should be between 250 and 500 words (about 1-3 pages, double spaced). It is not an essay or a paper, but a personal, thoughtful reflection on what you are doing in your work project. The topics for each of the journal entries are listed in the course calendar. You will turn in your journal at the mid-term and the final exam. The journal will be graded in two stages upon submission.

**2. Mid-term paper (100 points).** This is a 3-5 page paper on a topic of your choice. You will use standard formatting, font, and style (use citations where appropriate and provide footnotes, endnotes, or a works cited page conforming to a standard citation style). The topic should be selected from the assigned readings and discussions for the course. In this paper, you will advance a thesis or claim on some topic of the course and the paper will provide an argument in support of that thesis. An argument is a reasoned defense of a claim using evidence. The evidence for this paper will be drawn from the assigned readings and any external research you have performed. You will need to identify relevant content that supports your thesis and

develop an interpretation of that content in such a way that you provide a convincing argument for your thesis.

**3. Final paper (100 points).** The final paper has the same requirements as the mid-term paper. However, this paper should be completed on a different topic from the mid-term paper.

**4. Satisfactory completion of cooperative service, documenting hours of work (200 points).**

**5. Class participation (100 points). Regular attendance and preparation for in-class discussion.**

### **Grading Policy:**

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 700. The term grade legend follows:

|                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A = 90% to 100% (630 to 700 point)   | 4 points per semester hour |
| B = 80% to 89.9% (560 to 629 points) | 3 points per semester hour |
| C = 70% to 79.9% (490 to 559 points) | 2 points per semester hour |
| D = 60% to 69.9% (420 to 489 points) | 1 point per semester hour  |
| F = 0% to 59.9% (000 to 419 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 work will be accepted with penalty, unless I have received a valid excuse or the student has arranged for late submission *prior to the deadline*. I will deduct a minimum of 10% of the

grade from the first day the assignment is late and an additional 10% of the grade for every week it is late after that.

**!! Philosophy Tutoring is available at <http://hccs.askonline.net/> Please use it if you need it !!**

### **Academic Honesty:**

The pressure to earn high grades and belief that *a good end can justify any means whatsoever* leads many students to try cutting corners by resorting to less than honest methods. Do yourself a favor by avoiding that trap. The HCC *Student Handbook* lists cheating, plagiarism, and collusion as scholastic dishonesty. It defines *plagiarism* as "the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit." It defines *collusion* as "the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit." Work submitted for this course that is determined to be the result of either cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will earn a "0" for that assignment; two instances of cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in an automatic "F." Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. See *HCC Student Handbook*.

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

Students are responsible for materials covered in-class and online during their absences, and it is the student's responsibility to contact and consult with the instructor for make-up assignments. In addition, any student who is absent on posted exam dates should be prepared to schedule the make-up of missed examinations on the first day of returning to class. Make-up examinations are taken by appointment at the campus Testing Center. This scheduling cannot occur during class time. Any other assignments not turned in on time (due to absences) must also be either turned in, or scheduled for late submission on the first day of returning to class. Finally, there will be no extension of due dates and/or make-ups for Online Requirements. Except for a medical excuse or documented family or personal emergency, there is no exemption from these rules.

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

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences will 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 for Spring 2015 on Monday, April 27 at 4:30 PM. 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:**

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), click Future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at Northwest College, Mahnaz Kolaini at 713.718.5422.

### **Student Services Policies:**

<http://hccs.edu/student-rights>

### **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.