

# SYLLABUS

## Academic Discipline

**Philosophy**

## Course Title

**Introduction to Philosophy**

## Course Rubric and Number

**PHIL 1301 – 80806**

## Location and Meeting Days and Times

**Katy Campus, Room 347**

**Monday through Friday – 8:00 am to 10:00 am**

## Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH)

**3 SCH – Regular Term**

## Contact Hours

**48 Contact Hours**

## Course Length

**5 weeks**

## Type of Instruction

**Lecture and Web-Enhanced**

## Instructor Contact Information

**Nathan D. Smith, PhD, Instructor**

**Department of Philosophy**

**E-Mail: [nathan.smith2@hccs.edu](mailto:nathan.smith2@hccs.edu)**

## Instructor Office Location and Hours

**Office : Spring Branch 900-D**

**Office Hours: By appointment.**

## Course Description

Introduction to the study of ideas and their logical structure, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. Includes introduction to the history, theories, and methods of reasoning. (Texas ACGM – Approval Number: 38.0101.53 12)

This course is a theoretically diverse introduction to the study of ideas, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. The basis for this inquiry is drawn from history, theories, their application, methods of reasoning, and carried forward to more recent thinkers and issues. (HCC Catalog). Included is the growing emergence of women's, minority, and non-western voices in philosophy. Accordingly, this course should not be construed as history-bound, or

strictly western in its perspective. Its thematic elements are contemporary, including the nature and abiding presence of philosophizing in human discourse, and this discipline's impact on current developments in science, the humanities, and political/social order in world cultures.

(HCC Catalog) CORE CURRICULUM COURSE

### CORE Requirements, Certificates, AA-Degree Plan, and Transfer Information

**Fulfills** philosophy requirement for various academic and professional four-year college majors, and HCC Philosophy AA-degree plan. **HCC CORE Multicultural Area, or Elective.** HCC CORE Multicultural Area, or Elective.

**DISCIPLINE NOTICE:** Students who are pursuing an HCC AA-degree plan are advised that except as noted, this course may not be used to satisfy any other HCC CORE requirement, though it may satisfy certain transfer institution college major requirements. Students who are in doubt about their enrollment in this course should immediately see an HCC academic counselor who can review his or her AA-degree plan.

### Prerequisites

### College Reading Level

### Course Goals

This course is a theoretically diverse introduction to the study of ideas, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. The basis for this inquiry is drawn from history, theories, their application, methods of reasoning, and carried forward to more recent thinkers and issues. Included is the growing emergence of women's, minority, and non

### Expected Learning Outcomes

- 1. Recall and Identify** the major thinkers, schools, core philosophical questions, terms and concepts found in the history of ideas cross-culturally construed, from ancient times to the contemporary world.
- 2. Interpret and Explain** core philosophical questions and concepts in terms that illustrate a comprehensive understanding of each.
- 3. Apply** core philosophical questions and concepts to contemporary issues and personal experience.
- 4. Compare and Contrast** related core philosophical questions and concepts, and the correlative thinkers and schools with which they are commonly associated.
- 5. Justify** a sound philosophical position on a topic, or topics of contemporary human interest in the areas of knowledge, ethics, or human condition that **Integrates** and **Logically Demonstrates** a **Synthesis** in thought.

### Course Learning Objectives

**1.1 Acquire** a broad familiarity with the names of major thinkers, the schools they represent, geographical location, and historical periods.

**1.2 Learn** historically significant questions of philosophy, definitions of special terms, and concepts of knowledge, ethics, and human condition.

**2.1 Cultivate** reading comprehension of philosophical writings.

**2.2 Distinguish** various approaches to interpretation, including conceptual analysis, testing for validity, determining if sound or not sound.

**3.1 Articulate** the relevance of philosophy and philosophical questioning to everyday life.

**3.2 Consider** how philosophy may or may not apply to differing ways of thinking and cultural influences.

**4.1 Inventory, Summarize, and Assess** correlative questions, concepts, and schools of thought found in the history of ideas.

**5.1 Create and cultivate** alternative philosophical positions on presented course content.

**5.2 Develop** coherent arguments for chosen positions, bringing to bear the rules of logic, written expression and disciplined thinking.

**5.3 Critique** chosen positions and adequately Defend against possible objections, both theoretical and applied.

### CORE Curriculum Competencies

This course stresses the HCC CORE Competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy.

### Course Calendar

**See Blackboard Online Course Calendar** - Check course calendar regularly for updates and revisions. Depending on class learning progress, your instructor reserves the right to either accelerate, or slow the completion of course curriculum *per the* Calendar tool.

### Instructional Methods and Internet Component

**This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Blackboard Vista*. The HCC *Blackboard Vista* logon page is:**

<http://hccs.blackboard.com>

Your *Blackboard Vista* 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, there is a link on the logon page that you can click on to retrieve it. Your default *Blackboard Vista* password at the beginning of the term is: "distance". You will be asked to change it the first time you logon. **PLEASE SELECT A NEW PASSWORD YOU WILL REMEMBER!** This password is independent of your Online Registration

password. It is your responsibility to change your password. Once logged on, you will come to a page that shows this course and all other courses in which you are enrolled that have online sections, including those designated as either hybrid, or DE. To enter this course, simply click on the course name and you will be taken to the course homepage.

### Text Information:

#### Required Texts:

Weston, Anthony//**A Rule Book for Arguments**  
Hackett Publishing, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2008  
ISBN 978-087220-954-1

Grube//**Plato: Five Dialogues**  
Hackett Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2002  
ISBN 978-0-87220-633-5

Descartes, Rene // **Discourse On Method and Meditations On First Philosophy**//Hackett Publishing  
4th Edition, 1999//  
ISBN 0-87220-420-0

Atherton, Katherine, ed.//**Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period**  
Hackett Publishing, 1994//  
ISBN 0-87220-259-3

Sartre, Jean-Paul//**Existentialism and Human Emotions**  
Carol Publishing Group, 1984  
ISBN 0806509023

### Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office, and to do so in a reasonable manner.

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), click Future Students, then 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 your college.

## 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, and may cause the student to receive either an "F", or "I" in the course depending on your professor's stated requirements for the assignment and the weight it carries in determining your course grade. Students receiving an "I" for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript. Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. See *Student Handbook*.

## Attendance and Withdrawal Policies

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 IF, FOR ANY REASON, THAT STUDENT IS NO LONGER ATTENDING. NEW RULES ARE IN EFFECT THAT GREATLY CHANGE HOW AND WHEN THAT CAN BE DONE. YOU WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN FROM THIS COURSE BY YOUR PROFESSOR. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE POSSIBLE PENALTIES OTHER THAN LOSING ONE'S PAID TUITION THAT EVERY STUDENT MUST CONSIDER CAREFULLY BEFORE WITHDRAWING. THESE INCLUDE:

- (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 Fall 2010 is Thursday, November 18, 2010 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". Your instructor will not withdraw you for non-attendance and will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student.

## HCC Student Services Information

<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

## Grading Components and Weights

- **Participation (100 points)** – Calculated based on attendance, preparation for class (ability to answer when called upon), and contribution to in-class discussion.
- **Blackboard Discussion forums (4 x 50 points each)** – There will be online discussion topics. You are required to participate. To receive full credit, you must complete an initial post on the topic of at least 250 words, and then you must respond to at least 3 of your classmates. Prepares for Learning Outcomes 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- **Quizzes (4 x 50 points each)** – At the end of each week, we will have an online quiz consisting of multiple choice, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Assessing Learning Outcome 1
- **Midterm Essay (200 points)** – Before the mid-term, you will be assigned a paper essay of 3 pages in length. You will choose one topic among options given, provide an interpretation of material related to that topic, apply issues to examples, and consider alternative positions. Assessing Learning Outcome 2; preparing for Learning Outcomes 3, and 4.
- **Final Exam (300 points)** – The exam will consist of three long paragraph answers. It will be composed at home and turned in on the day of the scheduled final exam. Your responses should demonstrate the ability to apply concepts learned to original examples, consider alternative positions, compare and contrast various philosophical views, and justify your own position. Assessing Learning Outcomes 3, 4, and 5.

\* Point Recovery – Grades will not be curved, but students may “recover” points lost in quizzes. Instructions – When you view your exam submission on Blackboard, you will be able to see which answers you missed. For every answer you miss, you must determine the correct answer AND explain (in a sentence or two) why it is the correct answer. If you do this, you will receive 1/2 credit for each correction.

## Minimum Writing Requirement (Per Philosophy Discipline)

**4,000 Words (Required discussions, blogs, essays, exams)**

## Grading Policy

**All grades will be figured according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 1000. The term grade legend and analysis are as follows:**

**A = 90% to 100% (900 to 1000 point)**

**B = 80% to 89.9% (800 to 899 points)**

**C = 70% to 79.9% (700 to 799 points)**

**D = 60% to 69.9% (600 to 699 points)**

**F = 0% to 59.9% (000 to 599 points)**

## 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.

## Tutoring Information

[www.hccs.askonline.net](http://www.hccs.askonline.net)