

**Philosophy Syllabus**

**Instructor: Parish Conkling**

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**Office Hours: MW 10:00-12:00 and by appt.**

**Office: Spring Branch, 900N**

**Introduction to Philosophy**

**Course Description:**

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.

**PREREQUISITE(S):**

* ENGL 1301 or higer

**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.

 **Student Learning Outcomes:**

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.

 **CLASS STRUCTURE:**

1. **WEEKLY MODULES: This course uses weekly modules to deliver all necessary readings and assignments, including quizzes, exams and coursework. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the modules and the class structure before you begin to attempt the work for the course.**
2. **WEEKLY READINGS:**

**The online course will be organized around weekly readings. While the amount of assigned readings will not be extensive, they will require careful reading and rereading. Notes on reading philosophical text are provided in detail below. PLEASE NOTE: these readings are found in the weekly modules.**

1. **COURSE WORK:**

**Other than the exams and quizzes, each week you will have an assignment based on the readings. These will be a combination of reading assessments, discussions and activities. Please be sure to follow the instructions for the assignments. Following the instructions is a vital part of any assignment, and points will be deducted for failing to do so.**

**READING ASSESSMENTS:**

Most weeks you will have a reading assessment to complete. This assessment asks you to evaluate the text. There are several sections to the reading assessment. Full points will be given if each section of the assessment is completed. Points will be deducted for missing sections. Please do not use online sources to complete this, i.e flashcard sites, definition.com, SEP and so on.  Taking information from online sources and copying it into the assessment sections constitutes plagiarism and will be treated as such. I am interested in your own interaction with the text. There is no need to jeopardize your academic career for this.

One of the goals for this class is to create a moral community where differences of perspective and understanding are respected. Collaborative learning involves our relationships to others. We are responsible not only for ourselves, but also for the social contexts in which we find ourselves.

**Important: Since the reading assessments are the equivalent of attending a regular lecture class, just as it is impossible to make up a missed class, so as well you can’t post a reading assessment after the week is over. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the assignments. If you have trouble uploading your assignment, you may email it to me,**

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**QUIZZES AND ESSAYS:**

**In addition to the course work, most weeks you will have a short chapter quiz. These will be taken online and will be timed.**

**Quizzes will be given a week to complete. You will not be able to make up the quizzes after the week has passed.**

**EXAMS**

**There will be 3 exams. Exams will be either multiple choice and T/F or short essay discussing the salient points of a theory we have discussed.**

**You are given a full week to complete the exams.** **There will be absolutely no make up opportunities once the week has passed.**

**Please note: Quizzes and exams are timed. Once you begin the quiz or exam, you will not be able to log out and come back to it. I will not allow make-ups for exceeding the time limit, or failing to complete the quiz/exam once you begin.**

**Please note:**

**Since you have a full week to complete all the activities, there will be no make-up opportunities, so don’t wait until the last minute on Sunday to turn in your work.** **The exams will be posted well in advance, so that you will have ample time to fulfill the assignment. Don’t wait until the last minute to submit your work.**

**If there is a legitimate reason for missing discussions, quizzes 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.**

**Notice About Online Learning Management Software:**

This course will be using the CANVAS LMS. 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.**

**Adopted Texts:**

This course will consist entirely of readings which I will provide on your course site

**Grading Components and Weights**

**Exam 1 – 20%**

**Exam 2 – 20%**

**Final – 20%**

**Course work – 25%**

**Quizzes – 15%**

 A =  90% to 100%

B =  80% to 89.9%

C = 70% to 79.9%

D =  60% to 69.9%

F  =  0% to 59.9%

FX (Failure due to non-attendance)

IP (In Progress)

W (Withdrawn)

I (Incomplete)

AUD (Audit)

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:**

**Since you have a full week to complete all the activities, there will be no late work accepted. Don’t wait until the last minute on Sunday to turn in your work.**

**Make Up Policy:**

YOU ARE GIVEN A FULL WEEK TO COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENTS. This is an online class and can be accessed from any location. Therefore I will only allow make ups of assignments for the following reasons:

Illness

Death of a loved one

Military exercises – etc.

Legal proceedings

If your absence is due to one of these reasons you must let me know WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE MISSED EXAM. After you provide proper documentation we will schedule your make up exam. **If you fail to notify me within 24 hours, or your absence is not due to the above exceptions then YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP THE EXAM.**

*!! Philosophy Tutoring is available at* [*http://hccs.askonline.net/*](http://hccs.askonline.net/)***Please use it if you need it !!***

**Academic Honesty:**

Learning and teaching take place best in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and openness. All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in the student handbook.

**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:

* 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.

* 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.

* No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw". 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:**

The HCC Accessibility website is located at the following url: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/accessibility/>. You will find information about the types of assistance offered to students with special instructional needs on that web page. You will also find contact information for your college’s ADA compliance and accessibility office.

For questions, please contact the ADA counselor at your college campus. You can find a list of counselors [here](http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/accessibility/ada-counselors/#d.en.176881).

 **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.

**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/.

**SCHEDULE**

The course schedule is found on canvas, in the course modules.