Philosophy Syllabus

Introduction to Ethics – PHIL 2306

Summer 2018, Distance Education-

(3 Credit Hours)

HCC

Instructor: Parish Conkling

Learning Web Page:
https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/parish.conkling

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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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

A NOTE ON THE READINGS:

The readings for this course are difficult and require special effort. The texts will be taken as the basis for presenting, analyzing, and critically evaluating different philosophical problems. As a member of the class you have the obligation to be well prepared for and participate in every meeting. To be well prepared for this course you need to do more than just look over the assigned materials. Often you will have to read the text 2 or 3 times. You also need intelligent, critical reading of the texts; that is, you should:

a. Identify (and mark) the main thesis in the reading. If the thesis is not stated explicitly in the texts you must be prepared to defend your interpretation.

b. Identify the evidence or support given in favor of the thesis.

c. For every reference you make to the material, point to the exact place in the text.

d. Give a critical analysis of the evidence or support. Focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the author's position (e.g., Is the author consistent? Are there any unwarranted assumptions?)

e. Evaluate whether the consequences that follow from the argument are plausible.

f. Are there any other interesting observations or questions that might be worth discussing?

g. Are there any interesting connections to other readings or areas of the program? Or to ideas of your own?

You will have the opportunity to evaluate this course.

Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

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This is a distance education (online) course that uses Canvas. Please make sure you are competent in Canvas prior to the start of class.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

WEEKLY MODULES: This course uses weekly modules to deliver all necessary readings and assignments, including quizzes and discussions. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the modules before you begin to attempt the work for the course.

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.

DISCUSSIONS:

Discussions will play a central role in this course, so your active participation is required. I will post on Canvas, and take part in, discussion questions related to the readings for each of the weeks. Everyone must have at least one post and must respond to TWO other student's post in at least two different sessions (meaning different days). Discussion posts should be AT LEAST 250 words. Responses to others must be at least three full sentences. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a zero for the assignment. NO EXCEPTION.

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 discussions 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 in a discussion after the week is over.

QUIZZES AND ESSAYS:

In addition to the discussions, 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 and final exam. Exams will be multiple choice and T/F. The final will be 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.

Grading Policy:

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.

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.

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

Adopted Texts [Selected by Instructor from the following]:

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

Grading Components and Weights [Selected by Instructor]:

Assessment:

Exam 1 – 15%

Exam 2 – 20%

Exam 3 – 20%

Discussions – 25%

Quizzes – 15%

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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.

Make-up Policy:

Attendance in this class is extremely important. Since we are dealing with complex and difficult material, it is vitally important that you are in class and ready to participate daily. If you are unable to attend the class, it is your obligation to arrange with a classmate the acquisition of the day's material. Do not contact me to ask if you have missed "anything important". You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion.

Exams will commence at the start of class. I expect everyone to arrive on time, prepared with the needed materials. I will lock the classroom door exactly ten minutes after the exam has begun. If you arrive after that, you will not be allowed to take the exam. I will allow make up exams for the following reasons ONLY:

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.

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 XXXXX 20XX on XXXXXXX, XXXXXXX XX at X:XX XX. 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 Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the ADA counselor at your college campus. You can find a list of counselors here.

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.

Reading Schedule:

Please refer to the learning modules on Canvas for the reading schedule and exam dates. All necessary material will be found there.