



Philosophy

Syllabus

Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy –
PHIL 2307-13477

Spring 2017 Distance Education

HCC – Northwest College

Instructor: Parish Conkling

Learning Web Page:

<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/parish.conkling>

Email: parish.conkling@hccs.edu

Phone: 713-718-5162

Office hours: T & Th, by appointment

Office: Spring Branch, 900-N

Course Description:

This course is a critical analysis of political theories and social issues. Consideration will be given to historically significant and contemporary systems, problems, and thinkers (HCCS Catalog).

This course fulfills a philosophy requirement for many academic and professional 4-year programs as well as the HCC Philosophy AA-degree plan. It also satisfies the **HCC Core Curriculum** requirement for **Philosophy, Language, and Culture** OR the **Content Area Option**.

In keeping with the guidelines of the Texas Higher Education Curriculum Board, this course will provide a solid foundation in the following **Core Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility**.

NOTICE: Students who have questions about whether their enrollment in this course will satisfy their degree objectives should immediately see an HCC academic advisor who can review their academic degree plans.

PREREQUISITE(S):

- ENG 1301

FREQUENT REQUISITES

- Departmental approval

Course Goals:

Questions of justice, human rights, and economic rights serve as points of departure for this largely thematic inquiry into the formation and fabric of social and civil order. Particular emphasis is placed on the scope and problems of sound reasoning and decision-making and may include correlative inquiries into current social, workforce, and professional moral issues.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Read, analyze, and critique texts in social and political philosophy.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms common to social and political philosophy.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major forms of government and social systems.
4. Assess and evaluation social and political theories orally and/or in writing.
5. Apply course materials to social and political concerns including living responsibly in a world where people have diverse political priorities.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse political beliefs.

Learning Objectives:

- 1.1 Read texts by ancient, modern, and contemporary political philosophers.
- 1.2 Present summaries, reproduce arguments, and write about major themes in texts of social and political philosophy.
- 1.3 Critically assess the themes and arguments presented in texts of social and political philosophy.
- 2.1 Define glossary terms from readings in social and political philosophy.
- 2.2 Complete quizzes that assess knowledge of terms and concepts from social and political philosophy.
- 3.1 Identify types of government and the justice or injustice of political arrangements in quizzes and tests.
- 4.1 Engage in discussion forums that assess and evaluation key themes and arguments from readings on social and political philosophy.
- 5.1 Engage in discussion forums that consider diverse opinions and perspectives on social and political issues.
- 5.2 Consider a variety of different views on key social and political concepts.

6.1 Complete test questions that ask about the application of social and political theories to specific practical concerns.

7.1 Engage in discussion forums that consider issues of personal responsibility in the context of social, moral, and political obligations.

Notice About Online Learning Management Software:

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. You will receive points off for failing to adhere to these guidelines.**

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 !!

Required Texts:

Arendt, Hannah. The Human Condition. University of Chicago Press, 1958. ISBN: 978-0226025933

Plato. The Republic. Trans. by C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett, 2004. ISBN: 0-87220-736-6

Sandel, Michael J. Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. ISBN: 0374532508

Course Calendar:

Week 1 Introduction and syllabus review

Week 2 Overview of social and political philosophy

Weeks 3-6 The Republic – Plato

Weeks 7-10 The Human Condition

Weeks 11-13 Justice – Sandel

Week 14 – Thanksgiving

Week 15 – Wrap up

Week 16 – Finals Dec 5th-8th.

Grading Components and Weights:

EVALUATION:

Quizzes 15%

Discussions 20%

Exam 1 15%

Exam 2 15%

Exam 3 15%

Final 20%

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.

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." No exceptions and no re-writes. Probation or dismissal from HCC and ALL its several colleges may also result. See HCC Student Handbook.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policy:

Attendance will be recorded prior to the "Official Day of Record" on February 2. After that point, you must withdraw yourself from the course if you do not wish to receive the grade you have earned. I will not withdraw you from this course. 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 Fall 2014 falls on Tuesday, March 24 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, 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.

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.