



**Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences
Philosophy Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/>

Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy | Lecture | #17177

Fall, F8B, 2019 | 8 Weeks (Oct. 21 – Dec. 15, 2019)

Online

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Sally Parker-Ryan

HCC Email: sally.parkerryan@hccs.edu

PHONE: 214-830-6172

Learning Web: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/sally.parkerryan>

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics. Please use your HCC email address only.

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

ENGL 1301

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 1301 will use **Canvas** (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) for the entire course. Login here: <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE FIREFOX OR CHROME AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

Your 'home' campus is HCC Online: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/>

The Student Services page links you to everything you need to know about online courses, especially to the Mandatory Online Orientation, and to the HCC Online Student Handbook: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/student-support/>

For Technical Support, go to: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/>

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Course Overview

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

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

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.

Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Read canonical texts in the philosophical tradition.
- 1.2 Analyze, discuss, and critique philosophical texts in class, including through student presentations.

- 1.3 Analyze and critique philosophical texts in written work, including papers and tests.
- 2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in central areas of philosophy.
- 2.2 Define key concepts in your own words and provide definitions in regular quizzes.
- 2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers studied in the course through short answer questions and papers.
- 3 Present logically persuasive arguments in presentations, papers, and tests.
- 4.1 Engage in critical thinking through classroom discussion and presentations.
- 4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in written work.
- 5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility.
- 5.2 Apply philosophical concepts discussed in the course to personal and contemporary issues, demonstrating a concern for social and personal responsibility.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

HCC Writing Centers: On-Campus Tutoring & help with writing assignments:

The Houston Community College Writing Centers provide a student-centered environment where professional tutors support student success for all HCC students. The primary goal of the Writing Centers is to offer free, convenient, and personalized assistance to help students improve their writing at any stage of the writing process required in any courses at HCC. Tutors will also assist students with their job application letters, resumes, and scholarship/transfer essays.

Each session lasts about 30 minutes. Students should bring the professor's assignment sheet or notes about the requirements, a printed rough draft, their textbook, if necessary & a flash drive.

Consult Find-A-Tutor at <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/> for Writing Center locations and times. At HCC Writing Centers, each tutoring session becomes a learning experience.

Online Tutoring Assistance: <https://hccs.upswing.io/>

HCC Library Research & Writing: One of the best resources for research is your own library. Try this link for ideas: https://library.hccs.edu/research_writing

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

I will make all of the *required readings* available via links in Eagle Online to Open Access materials.

Supplementary Resources

I also recommend, for each topic we cover, looking it up on either, or both, of the following online encyclopedias:

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) <http://plato.stanford.edu/> and the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP) <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Also very useful is the following philosophy website:
<http://www.philosophypages.com/index.htm> - this site has a dictionary, study guides, history, individual philosophers as well as notes on logic and writing philosophy essays (in study guide section).

Don't forget to look for resources on the Philosophy discipline page of the Learning Web <https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/philosophy>

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments

- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Assessments

Discussion Board Posts (DPs)

(Addresses SLO 1, 2 & 3): There are 6 DPs opened throughout the course. You will be required to do TWO things: 1) respond to a question with a short post of a **minimum 250 words**, and 2) respond to a classmate's post with a **minimum of 100 words**. You can earn a maximum of 10 points per post, and these will accumulate to represent 60% of your grade. You will post to the appropriate discussion via the class website. The post must be completed by the due date and time. ***Late posts MAY be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. Please contact me BEFORE the post is due to discuss.***

Logic Quiz

(Addresses SLO 4 & 5): This quiz will be approximately ten questions in which you will be asked to translate arguments into symbols and/or assess their validity; and/or pick out fallacious arguments. The quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.

Final Exam

(Addresses SLO 1, 3 & 5): An exam comprised of a series of short and/or long answer questions will be made available online in the Finals week. It will go online **Thursday Dec 12 at 7am and will be due Friday Dec 13 at 7am**. Therefore, you will have 24 hours to complete the exam. You will be able to leave and return to the exam throughout the 24 hours. The Final Exam is worth 100 points, or 30% of your final grade. ***NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED***

Grading Formula

6 Discussion Board Posts	60 %	For a possible 60 points
1 Logic Quiz	10%	For a possible 10 points
1 Final Exam	30 %	For a possible 30 points

Incomplete Policy:

Incompletes are only considered if at least 85% of the class work is already completed.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed/Late Assignments

Discussion Posts and Logic Quizzes may be accepted late, with 2 points per day penalty (up to one week is allowed).

The Final Exam is open for 24 hours, during which you may leave and return to it. If for some reason you cannot do the exam during that time, a make up exam may be allowed.

Please communicate with me if you are having problems with the work, or need some extra help – I am here to help you succeed, so let me know EARLY so we can work together on the problem. You can always email me or call me. I am available to talk about philosophy, to offer help and advice about the course, and to help you find ways to get the most out of your studies and to help solve problems that might get in the way of these. So, please don't hesitate to get in touch – I am online every day and will get back to you within hours, most of the time. (I do make an exception for weekends – during which I may be slower than usual getting back to you, but not more than a day).

Academic Integrity

HCC POLICY: 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 the HCC Online Student Handbook: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/student-support/>

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICY: I have a very low tolerance for plagiarism. I provide many materials to ensure you know what plagiarism is, so you will not be able to claim you did not know, or that you 'made a mistake' in plagiarizing work. I **require** that you view the videos that I have placed on the Learning Web on plagiarism: 'How to Avoid

Plagiarism' and 'Understanding Plagiarism' – [Click Here](#) (I will remind you to watch them when we begin the course). Resources will also be made available for mastering a citation style, such as MLA. So, there are no excuses for anyone in this class to risk their college career, and personal reputations by cheating. Students who plagiarize cheat only themselves really, of the opportunities to improve their writing skills.

Consequences: Depending on how egregious the plagiarism is, the first offence is a fail on the particular assignment – no do-overs! If it happens again in the course, the student will be failed. In BOTH cases, that is, if I find ANY evidence of plagiarism, the student will be reported to the HCC system, where his or her name remains on their student file.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):
<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

HCC Online Students are expected to check in to the course site regularly, and to complete all work by noted due dates. **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.

No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw" on the academic calendar. 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

Instructor's Course-Specific Information

How to proceed with this course:

- Go to our course page on Eagle Online and make yourself familiar with it. If this is your first online course – don't stress too much! Just play around with the site, check out how it works for a bit and you will be fine. Just contact me if there is anything you do not understand ☺
- Watch videos on PLAGIARISM if you have not already. **SEE NOTES ON MY PLAGIARISM POLICY BELOW.**

- **Post in the “Who We Are” Forum: to get to know each other AND this is what I count to mark you as “present” for the course. You may be dropped if you do not post here.**
- For each week of the course, the basic procedure is to do the **required reading**, which will include Lecture Notes and other readings, and then complete the **assessment** by the due date of that week.
- The Calendar and Upcoming Events boxes to the right will alert you to upcoming due dates – keep an eye on these.
- The column on the left of your home page is where you can access all of the Modules, Assignments, Discussions etc. Inside the Modules link, you will find a folder full of Writing Resources and other tools to help.
- Browse the links in the RESOURCES section for hint and advice on writing – especially writing for philosophy.
- Be sure to understand what PLAGIARISM is – and do not commit it during this, or any other course.
- **Consult the Discussion Post Rubric: This will** tell you what is expected from you, and will help you understand the grades you get (and how to aim higher!)

Course Schedule:

Please note that this schedule is subject to change; although you will always be informed in adequate time if it does. **See schedule at the end of this syllabus for assessments and due dates.**

Pre-course reading: you should have already read this:

Russell, Bertrand. (1969), ‘The Value of Philosophy’, in *The Problems of Philosophy*, OUP: Oxford. Open-source: [Click here.](#)

If not, go ahead and read it now!

WEEK 1: Introduction

Required reading:

1. Plato, ‘The Apology’: [Click here.](#)
2. Week 1 Lecture Notes (online)

Topics: the point and purpose of philosophy; the method of philosophy, introduction to Plato and Socrates.

You **MUST** post on the **Who We Are** discussion board. This lets me see whom to count as ‘active’ in the course. If you do not post here, **you may be dropped from the course.**

WEEK 2: Logic

Required reading:

1. Weston, Anthony. *A Rule Book for Arguments*, Hackett Publishing, 5th Edition, 2010. ISBN 0-87220-552-5 (**I have put the require sections online**)
2. Notes on Logic, Dr. Parker-Ryan. (online)

Topics: An introduction to formal logic: validity and soundness, some argument forms; Informal fallacies and clear reasoning.

WEEK 3: Knowledge

Required reading:

1. Descartes, *Meditations 1 & 2* (online)
2. Locke, John (1690), *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (online)
3. Week 3 Lecture Notes (online)

Topics: The Theory of Knowledge: do we have it? If so, how can we be certain? We will look at Descartes Skepticism and his Method of Doubt. Then we turn to Locke: a different view of how we acquire knowledge; The Rationalism-Empiricism divide.

WEEK 4: Mind

Required reading:

1. Descartes, *Meditation 6* (online)
2. Turing's 'Intelligent Machines' and Searle's 'Minds, Brains, and computers' (online)

Topics: Philosophy of Mind: we know the brain is made of physical, biological matter, but what about the *mind*? If the mind is not made of physical matter, then what kind of thing is it? If it is made of physical matter, does it count as a kind of 'machine', like a computer?

WEEK 5: Review

WEEK 6: Free Will

Required reading:

1. TBD (online)
2. Week 6 Lecture Notes (online)

Topics: Do we really have freedom of will? Or are we completely pre-determined by a kind of causal chain of events – so that we really have no say?

WEEK 7: Ethics

1. Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, W.D.Ross (Trans), on MIT Internet Classics Archive, Book 1 & 2 (online)

2. Week 7 Lecture Notes (online)

Topics: How should we treat others? We explore the classic Aristotelian approach to an ethical life; known as 'virtue ethics'.

WEEK 8: Finals

Assessment: Final Exam (Online) **Goes online: Thurs 12/12 at 7am, and is due to be uploaded by Fri 12/13 at 7am. NO LATE EXAMS ACCEPTED.**

See Course Schedule (below)

PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Add program-specific information such as the following:

- PHIL Majors
- Careers in PHIL
- HCC PHIL Student Organizations
- PHIL Scholarships

Provide details for each or include links to the information

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services

- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

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 Coordinator 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
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Helen Graham, Ed.D.
713-718-7258
Codwell Hall room, 125
555 Community College Dr.
Houston, TX 77013

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham>

HCC – Introduction to Philosophy –Schedule

MONDAY (BEGIN WEEK)	WE EK No.	INFO.	READING: all on our website	TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC	SUNDAY (ASSESSMENTS DUE END OF WEEK)
10/21	1		To have already completed: The Value of Philosophy (Russell) The Apology (Plato)	Introduction to Philosophy	What is philosophy? What is the point of philosophy? Intro to Plato & Socrates	During this week, post your introduction, and share something about yourself with the class on 'Who We Are' on our class website. Discussion Post (DP) #1 due 10/27 by midnight
10/28	2	OFFICIAL DAY OF RECORD 06/10 – please be sure to have posted in Who We Are	Weston	LOGIC	Intro to some formal and informal logic: Validity and soundness, informal fallacies.	Logic Quiz due 11/03 by midnight.
11/04	3		Descartes and Locke	THE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (EPISTEMOLOGY)	Descartes' Method of Doubt and Rationalism Locke's knowledge though the senses and empiricism	DP #2 due 11/10 by midnight
11/11	4		Descartes, Turing and Searle	PHILOSOPHY OF MIND	Is the mind made of a non-physical stuff? Or is it just identical with the brain?	DP #3 due 11/17 by midnight.
11/18	5		Revise	REVIEW		DP #4 due 11/24 by midnight
11/25	6	07/08 LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW	Van Inwagen and TBA	FREE WILL	How can freedom of the will fit into a world that is a closed physical system?	DP #5 due 12/01 by midnight
12/02	7		Aristotle	ETHICS.	How should one live one's life? What is the right thing to do?	DP #6 due 12/08 by midnight
12/09 - 12/15 Last week of instruction/ Finals.	8	Last day of Instruction = 12/11		Thurs 12/12: EXAM GOES ONLINE AT 7AM FOR 24 HOURS. NO LATE EXAMS CAN BE ACCEPTED		Fri 12/13: FINAL EXAM DUE TO BE UPLOADED via course link BY 7am All done! Congratulations!