

Syllabus

Introduction to Philosophy, PHIL 1301-61999

Instructor: Dr. Sally Parker Ryan

Fall, Second 8 Week Semester, 2013	HCC-Northwest College
Spring Branch Campus, Room 319	Mon & Wed, 7:00-10:00pm
Email: sally.pr@sbcglobal.net	Office Hours by Appointment
Semester Credit Hours: 3	Type of Instruction: Lecture/ Seminar
Contact Hours: 48	Course Length: 8 Weeks
Oct 21 – Dec 15	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 or departmental approval.

Introduction to the study of ideas and their logical structure, including arguments and investigations about abstract and real phenomena. (Texas ACGM) 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) CORE CURRICULUM COURSE.

HCC CORE HUMANITIES OR MULTICULTURAL AREA, or Elective. Fulfills Philosophy requirement for various academic and professional four-year college majors and Philosophy AA-degree Plan. Global Studies Certificate course, Women and Gender Studies Certificate course.

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.

COURSE GOALS

To examine some of the major thinkers and schools of thought through the history of philosophy, from the ancients through to contemporary authors. We will look at philosophical problems and concepts as they have featured in both the Western and Non-Western traditions. We will identify argument structures and critically examine philosophical problems, and learn to think clearly and fairly about important issues. The aim is to emerge with sharper critical thinking abilities and excellent analytic skills.

STUDENT 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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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.

- 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.

CLASS POLICIES

Please be on time and have the reading done. 30% of your grade will be comprised of the results of 5 or 6 POP QUIZZES on the readings. The reading is crucial to success in this course. It is time consuming, difficult and you will not ALWAYS be excited by it (although you will MOSTLY be excited by it I hope); nevertheless, you cannot pass this course with a good grade without doing the reading. So make sure you make the time for it.

Please turn all cell-phones and other electronic devices off for class. Laptops for note-taking may be OK so long as they do not distract you or others.

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 book an appointment with me if you would like to see me outside class. 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.

(See below for attendance, lateness, grading and make-up policies)

COURSE MATERIALS

Most of the *required* readings will be available via links below to either open-source files, to articles in journals to which you have access through the HCC library, or to PDFs I have provided. Where noted, books are available at the HCC bookstore and I strongly recommend you acquire them if possible – if you use the online translations these may differ significantly from the translations in the books I recommend you buy (we will use these in the main). Certainly, it is always a good idea to have a printed version of all the readings, so you can make notes and have them available in class. We will be using the following books in class, available from the HCC bookstore:

Grube, G.M.A (Trans), *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

Holder, John. J (Ed. & Trans.), *Early Buddhist Discourses*, Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 2006. ISBN 0-87220-792-7

Sartre, Jean-Paul, *Existentialism and Human Emotions*, Citadel Press-Kensington Publishing, 1987. ISBN 0-80650-902-3

Recommended Texts:

Weston, Anthony. *A Rule Book for Arguments*, Hackett Publishing, 5th Edition, 2010. ISBN 0-87220-552-5

Notes on resources and supplementary reading: Excellent second-hand versions of many of these and other texts are available on Amazon.com for very, very good prices. For example, the very useful *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (Ed. Robert Audi)

was available for about \$9 including shipping. Half-Price Bookstore is also a good resource for cheap texts.

I 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).

Of course, nothing beats spending time in an actual library!

COURSE CALENDAR

The following schedule is not written in stone, it might be necessary for us to change the content or scheduling of the material – of course, ample notice will always be given. This schedule has to be flexible to our needs as a class, so check this page of the Learning Web REGULARLY for updates of both scheduling and content/reading.

DATE	CLASS	ADMIN	READING	TOPIC	ASSESSMENT DUE
OCTOBER 20		Last Day for drop/add/swap/registration ends (online only)			
OCTOBER 21	1		Russell	Value and Method of Philosophy	
OCTOBER 23	2		Plato	Euthyphro	
OCTOBER 28	3	Official Date of Record	Descartes	Knowledge & Reality	
OCTOBER 30	4		Locke	Empiricism	
NOVEMBER 4	5		Hume	Skepticism about Induction	
NOVEMBER 6	6		Berkeley	Idealism	1 st Argument Summary due: (MIN 1000 words/2 pages)
NOVEMBER 11	7		Descartes	Mind & Body	
NOVEMBER 13	8		Smart, Jackson	Physicalism pro and con	
NOVEMBER 18	9		Turing, Searle	Minds and Machines	Essay questions handed out.
NOVEMBER 20	10		Van Inwagen	Free Will	
NOVEMBER 22		LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW			
NOVEMBER 25	11		Sartre	Existentialism	
NOVEMBER 27		NO CLASS DUE TO THANKSGIVING ON NOV 28.			
DECEMBER 2	12		Holder	Buddhism	2 nd Assessment due: Short Essay 1000 words min.
DECEMBER 4	13		REVIEW		MAKE-UP QUIZ
DECEMBER 9	14	NO CLASS EXAM WEEK			
DECEMBER 11	15				Exam, Room 316, 7:30-9:30pm.

OCTOBER 21: CLASS 1

Required reading:

Russell, Bertrand. (1969), 'The Value of Philosophy', in *The Problems of Philosophy*, OUP: Oxford. Open-source: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5827/5827-h/5827-h.htm#link2HCH0015>

Perry, J., Bratman, M. and Fischer, J. Martin. (Eds.) (2013), 'Logical Toolkit' and 'Writing Philosophy Papers', in *Introduction to Philosophy*, 6th Edition, OUP: Oxford. (link to PDF I will scan in)

Supplementary reading:

Weston, 'A Rulebook for Arguments'.

TOPICS:

The point and purpose of philosophy

Intro to informal logic: fallacies of reasoning, deductive arguments, validity and soundness, critical thinking

How to structure a philosophy paper

OCTOBER 23: CLASS 2

Required reading:

Plato, 'The Apology' and 'The Euthyphro' – Grube translation available at bookstore is best, or <http://www.classicallibrary.org/plato/index.htm>

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP on 'Plato'

TOPICS:

Summarizing an argument

The 'Socratic Method'

OCTOBER 28: CLASS 3

Required reading: Descartes, *Meditations 1, 2 and 5* – Cress translation from bookstore is best, or: http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_descarte.html

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: 'Descartes'

TOPICS:

Skepticism: epistemological or ontological?

Foundationalism about knowledge

Intro to Empiricism versus Rationalism

Intro Mind-Body Dualism

OCTOBER 30: CLASS 4

Required reading: Locke, John (1690), *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book I, Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-8; Book II, Chapters 1, 2 & 8, pp. 18-23; 29-33.

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/loess.html>

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: 'Empiricism versus Rationalism', 'Locke'

TOPICS:

Empiricism

The existence of the external world

The perception of objects

NOVEMBER 4: CLASS 5

Required reading: Hume, David. (1748), *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section IV, parts I & II: <http://www.davidhume.org/texts/ehu.html>

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: 'Hume'

TOPICS:

Empiricism

Skepticism about induction

NOVEMBER 6: CLASS 6

Required reading: Berkeley, George. (1710) *Principles of Human Knowledge*, Introduction and sections 1-50, pp. 1-11:

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_berkeley.html

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: 'Idealism', 'Berkeley'

TOPICS:

Idealism

REVIEW MATERIAL SO FAR

ASSESSMENT: 1st Argument Summary Due.

NOVEMBER 11: CLASS 7

Required reading: Descartes, *Meditation 6* – Cress translation from bookstore, or:
http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_descarte.html

SEP: ‘Dualism’, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dualism/>

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: ‘Dualism’, ‘Epiphenomenalism’, ‘Panpsychism’

TOPICS:

The Mind-Body interaction problem

Dualism, Epiphenomenalism, Panpsychism

NOVEMBER 13: CLASS 8

Required reading: Smart, J.J.C. (1959), ‘Sensations and Brain Processes’, *Philosophical Review*, 68: 141–156. - link to JSTOR through HCC

Jackson, Frank. (1986), ‘What Mary Didn’t Know’, in *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 83, No. 5, pp. 291-295. – Link through JSTOR

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP ‘Mind-Brain Identity-Theory’

TOPICS:

Materialism, physicalism, minds and machines

NOVEMBER 18: CLASS 9

Required reading: Turing and Searle – provided by Instructor

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP: ‘Turing’s Machines’, ‘Minds and Machines’, ‘Artificial Intelligence’.

TOPICS:

Minds and Machines

NOVEMBER 20: CLASS 10

Required reading: Van Inwagen, Peter. (1975) 'The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism' in *Philosophical Studies: An International Journal for Philosophy in the Analytic Tradition*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Mar., 1975), pp. 185-199. – link to JSTOR through HCC.

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP 'Free Will' and 'Determinism'

TOPICS:

Do we really have free will, or is everything pre-determined?

REVIEW MATERIAL

NOVEMBER 25: CLASS 11

Required reading: Sartre – Citadel Press edition from HCC bookstore.

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP 'Existentialism'

TOPICS:

Existentialism: as a metaphysics and as a moral theory

DECEMBER 2: CLASS 12

Required reading: Holder, John. J (Ed. & Trans.), *Early Buddhist Discourses*, Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 2006. ISBN 0-87220-792-7 (Available from HCC bookstore).

Supplementary reading:

SEP, IEP 'Buddhism'

TOPICS:

Buddhist philosophical thought.

ASSESSMENT: Short Essay Due.

DECEMBER 4: CLASS 13

REVIEW AND MAKE-UP QUIZ

DECEMBER 9: CLASS 14

No class – exam week.

DECEMBER 11: FINAL CLASS: EXAM. PLEASE BE ON TIME. 7.30-9.30pm,
Room 316.

GRADING COMPONENTS AND POLICIES

All grades will be calculated according to a percentage of *total points*. The total number of points for this term is 100. The term grade legend follows:

A = 100- 90	90 – 100 points
B = 89 - 80:	80 – 89 points
C = 79 - 70:	70 – 79 points
D = 69 - 60:	60 – 69 points
59 and below = F	Below 60 points
FX (Failure due to non-attendance)	0 points
W (Withdrawn)	0 points
I (Incomplete)	0 points
AUD (Audit)	0 points

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.

Attendance/Participation	10%	For a possible 10 points
POP QUIZZES (5 OR 6)	30%	For a possible 30 points
Argument Summary	15%	For a possible 15 points
Short Essay	15%	For a possible 15 points
Exam	30%	For a possible 30 points
Make-up Quiz	5 or 6%	For a possible 5 or 6 points

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: It is important to be on time, not to miss classes and to have the reading done. It is equally important to have your say in discussions, as this helps you to gain important communication skills and the ability to think on your feet. It is also excellent practice for debating issues rationally and reasonably and, at all times, respectfully. Attendance is taken each class and is recorded for the college (please see attendance and withdrawal policies for HCC below). Persistent lateness is a problem that needs to be dealt with seriously as it disrupts your learning and the class. It may result in loss of points.

POP QUIZZES: I will administer 5 or 6 quizzes throughout the term, set for dates unknown to the student. These quizzes will be on the READING SET FOR THAT CLASS, and some questions on earlier work also. Quiz will begin promptly at 7 pm. There will be one make-up quiz available. You may drop your lowest grade/s from the quizzes you sit, and I will count your best 5 grades toward the final 30% grade for quizzes. (SLO 1)

ARGUMENT SUMMARY: (Minimum 1000 words/ 2 pages – you may write more if you wish) You will be required to summarize an argument of your choosing, from the topics covered thus far. You must identify the premises and conclusions of the argument (and by whom it was proposed). You will be required to comment on whether the argument is valid, and whether and why you do or do not find it persuasive. You may compare it to other attempts at the same or similar conclusions, and you may suggest what you think the weaknesses or strengths of the argument may be, or how it could be improved. (SLO 2 & 3)

SHORT ESSAY: I will distribute essay questions a couple of weeks before it is due. Write a minimum of 1000 words answering a question of your choice. **ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS – COPYING FROM ANY SOURCE (TEXT OR INTERNET ETC.) IS PLAGIARISM, AND YOU WILL BE FAILED. Remember to CITE sources if you quote other authors' works.**

EXAM: There will be some multiple choice and short answer questions, and one essay question which will require you to describe a philosophical position, identify its opposition, and then to argue either for or against the position, using your own ideas and experiences as illustrations or examples. (SLO 1-5)

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Quizzes must be completed on the day and time they are set. If you are more than 5 minutes late for class, you will have to miss the quiz and take the MAKE-UP QUIZ that can be done on December 4. If you think you will be late with your argument summary or essay, please try to see me about it BEFORE the due date. I will deduct a minimum of 10% of the grade from the first day the assignment is late and an additional 10% of the grade for every week it is late after that. 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. Except for a medical excuse or documented family or personal emergency, there is no exemption from these rules.

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. **Please be aware that ever-evolving applications exist that detect plagiarism, and your instructor will run your work through them.**

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 Attendance and Withdrawal Policies (Continued) 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 is **Friday 22 Nov 2013 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.**

TUTORING INFORMATION

Limited face-to-face tutoring is available from the course instructor during office hours, or by appointment. In addition, all PHILOSOPHY students are encouraged to use HCC's online tutoring system for help with any philosophy class. Questions submitted to the ASK queue will be answered within 24 hours – and usually much before that. Tutors are on duty 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Online tutors will not do homework for you, but they will guide you in the right direction. To maximize the effectiveness of the system, be specific when you ask questions, and let the tutor know what class you are taking. You will receive two responses – one from an English tutor and one from a philosophy tutor.

Registering for online tutoring is easy. Go to www.hccs.askonline.net. Select a user name and password that you will remember. Use any e-mail address, and add your student ID number (W number). It will probably take five minutes to set up your Askonline account. After that, you can submit questions in seconds. Tutor responses are not e-mailed to you. To see the answers, log back in to the system and click the bright yellow NEW button.

Online tutoring is also available for accounting, history, government, chemistry, physics, biology, math, English, and papers in all disciplines.

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, 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. District ADA Coordinator - Donna Price - 713.718.5165. Northwest ADA Counselor - Mahnaz Kolaini - 713.718.5422.

HCC STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION

NORTHWEST COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES provides masters and doctoral-level counseling for high-quality support services for the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts and completing degree/certificate plans.

Student Services Location and Hours: Katy Campus, Suite 104, Phone -(713) 718-5751

8:30am–6:30pm Monday thru Thursday 9:00am–1:00pm Friday

Spring Branch Campus, Phone -(713) 718-5669 9:00am–7:00pm Monday thru Thursday
9:00am–1:00pm Friday

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

EARLY ALERT: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. **ALL STUDENTS ARE ADVISED:** Contact your professor/counselor about opportunities for private tutoring and other assistance prior to considering withdrawal, or if you are not receiving passing grades. There are many opportunities available to assure your success!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

Receiving either a “W”, or “I” in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course (after you have formally submitted a withdrawal form), it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. An “I” does convert to an “F”, but only after six months have passed from the end of the term it was received. Please contact the International Student Office at

713-718-8520, if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

EGLS3:

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