Intro to Ethics-15768

PHIL-2306

RT 2023   Section 0024   3 Credits   01/17/2023 to 05/14/2023   Modified 01/09/2023

Our Vision

Houston Community College shapes the future for all students with innovative, affordable, timely, responsive, and continuously improving educational programs and services. Partnered with the communities we serve, we take a defining role in regional economic, workforce, and social development.

https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/ (https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/)

🕐 Course Meetings

Meeting Days

This course is completely virtual, 'online anytime': there will be no meetings either in person or online.

Meeting Times

N/A

Meeting Location

Online.

👤 Welcome and Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Sally Parker-Ryan

Email: sally.parkerryan@hccs.edu
Phone: 214-830-6172

What's Exciting About This Course

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. 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.

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to Intro to Ethics!

It is my hope that you will enjoy this course as much as I enjoy teaching it, and that you will learn things you may have never thought about before. At the end of this course you will emerge seeing the world around you, and yourself, quite differently. An added bonus is that philosophy teaches excellent skills in analysis and logical thinking!

Just be ready: *this course is difficult and exciting and you will be surprised at how philosophical you are able to be* :-) Ethics, as a sub-topic within philosophy, asks the questions we all wonder about at some point (perhaps the most important questions): What is the 'right' way to behave? How should live our lives? What makes 'right' different from 'wrong'? And how can we know these things? Why should we try to do the right thing at all? Why should we care about others?

Our journey involves examining some of the major thinkers and schools of thought through the history of ethics from the ancients through to contemporary authors. We will look at ethical problems and concepts as they have featured in both meta-ethics (which asks questions about ethical theories themselves) and normative ethical theories (which ask questions about behavior - not theories). We will identify argument structures and critically examine some contemporary ethical problems, and learn to think clearly and fairly about important issues.

Preferred Method of Contact

Please use your HCC email account to email me at: sally.parkerryan@hccs.edu

Please visit my Learning Web page at: https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/sally.parkerryan

Office Hours

Mon through Fri, 9am - 5pm
Online, by appointment.

I am available for virtual chat on most days. Hours vary, so email me and we can arrange a time.

⬛ Course Overview

Course Description

A philosophical reflection of the basic principles of the moral life, including traditional and contemporary views concerning the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, and freedom as they apply to individual right, business, medicine, and community well-being. This course satisfies the Language, Philosophy and Culture or Component Area Option of the HCC core.

Requisites

English 1302 or Department Approval

Department Website

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

◎ Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Philosophy, Language, and Culture component area or the Component Area Option in the HCC Core Curriculum.

- *Critical Thinking*: Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, and creative thinking by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.
- *Communication Skills*: Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.
- *Personal Responsibility*: Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- *Social Responsibility*: Students will demonstrate cultural self-awareness, intercultural competency, civil knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities by completing textbook reading assignments, completing assignments, and answering questions on quizzes and exams that pertain to Course Student Learning Outcome #4 below.

📶 Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Demonstrate knowledge and 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.

5. Apply relevant ethical theories to daily activities, and to issues in contemporary debates.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.

2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.

4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.

5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.

6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.

7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Learning Objectives

1.1 Read canonical texts and contemporary articles in the philosophical tradition of ethics.

1.2 Analyze, discuss, and critique philosophical texts and ethical questions through open annotation exercises, papers, and discussion forums.

1.3 Analyze and critique philosophical texts and practical ethical questions in papers and tests.

2.1 Learn basic philosophical vocabulary, major arguments, and positions in philosophical ethics.

2.2 Recognize key concepts in regular quizzes.

2.3 Demonstrate understanding of key arguments and claims made by philosophers studied in the course through papers and assignments.

3 Present logically persuasive arguments in papers and tests.

4.1 Engage in critical thinking through discussion forums, papers, and tests.

4.2 Demonstrate critical thinking skills in all written work.

5.1 Consider the impacts of philosophical ideas on personal and social responsibility in papers and discussion forums.

5.2 Apply philosophical concepts discussed in the course to personal and contemporary issues, demonstrating a concern for social and personal responsibility in written work.

Departmental Practices and Procedures

Department Specific 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/or 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 course material
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all assignments, this syllabus, handouts
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

Program-Specific Student Success Information

Attendance, preparedness, participation, and communication are essential for your success in this course. Preparedness and participation include carefully engaging with course material and assignments during course hours and on your own time. Attendance and communication with your instructor and your peers are vital. All of the above will ensure your growth in our community of learners where knowledge and skills are achieved through a process of mutual responsibility and involvement.

Academic Integrity

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students participate on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. You are expected to be familiar with HCC's policy on Academic Honesty. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. To be clear, plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without giving credit), collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit), and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty may be given a grade of "F" or "0" for the particular assignment involved, assigned a failing grade in the course for repeated offenses, and/or referred to the Dean of Student Services for further disciplinary action. In extreme cases or for repeated violations, guilty students are recommended for probation or dismissal from the College.

Attendance Policy

HCC Policy is that you can miss up to but not exceed 12.5% of class hours, which is equivalent to 6 hours in this course. If you have not attended class before the official date of record, you will be automatically withdrawn from the course by the registrar. Students who are withdrawn for nonattendance will not be reinstated. Although it is your responsibility to withdraw from a course, the instructor has the authority to withdraw you for excessive absences. You may be withdrawn from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the total hours of instruction (6 hours for this course).

You are absent when you:

Online Anytime Courses (WW) - Fail to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments).

Online on a Schedule Courses (WS) – Fail to log in during your scheduled class time and/or fail to actively participate (including failure to submit assignments). Excessive tardies and leaving class early may count towards your allotted absences.

In Person Courses (P) – Fail to attend class. Excessive tardies and leaving class early may count towards your allotted absences.

Hybrid Courses (HY) – Fail to log in and actively participate during your scheduled class time and/or fail to attend your in-person class session. Excessive tardies and leaving class early may count towards your allotted absences.

Incomplete Policy

In order to be considered for a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 75% of the coursework with a passing grade. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor and to submit requisite work to complete the course and be assigned a grade. Student and instructor should execute a statement of work to be completed. A grade of Incomplete which has not been made up after six months from the end of the term in which the "I" was assigned will be converted to an "F." In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

📒 Instructional Materials and Resources

Online Educational Resources

I provide all materials required for this course online, there is no need to buy any materials or books. Materials are curated from open access resources, creative commons licences, and other free and unrestricted materials on the web. These include texts, videos, images - all chosen to carefully support instruction on the topics, and to provide a range of media to accommodate different learning preferences.

Your primary textbook may be viewed and downloaded here: [George W. Matthews, *Philosophical Ethics; A Guidebook for Beginners*, creative commons CC BY-SA 4.07 license. (https://gwmatthews.github.io/ethics/)](https://gwmatthews.github.io/ethics/)

Availability: All on Canvas

✔ Course Requirements

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Discussion Board Posts & Replies	20%	Various prompts on topics covered previously.	You will have 2 Discussion Board posts and replies. Each discussion will provide a prompt, to which you will respond with a **minimum** of 200 words (more is fine). These posts are to be *essay standard.* That means you should approach these as mini-essays, and as such they will required to be well-structured and written, and contain proper citations for any resources used. *A detailed rubric is provided for discussion posts and replies, but generally, they are expected to be essay-level quality, including correct spelling, grammar and citations.* Once you have posted, you will be able to read through your peers' posts. You will choose one, and respond with a **minimum** of 100 words. Each Discussion Board is worth 10% of your final grade.
Quizzes	40%	Readings and materials in modules	You will take 6 online quizzes. Each quiz is comprised of 20 true/false, multiple choice, or fill in the gap etc.questions, based on the material that came in the prior Modules. These quizzes will will be based on the readings, and most questions can only be answered if you have *read the texts*. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade. **Your lowest 2 scores will be dropped.**
Case Study Short Essay	20%	Ethics Case Studies	You will read a number of real-life case studies in which a variety of ethical issues arise. You will choose one to write about. You will write a 500 word short essay: you will be asked to describe the scenario, draw out the ethical issues, and then suggest an approach to resolve this issue, applying one or more of the ethical theories you have learned about. *A detailed rubric is provided for short essays, but generally, they are expected to be of a high quality, including correct spelling, grammar and citations.*

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Final Exam	20%	Comprehensive: covers material from the whole course.	You will have a selection of 30 questions, drawn from the quiz banks, i.e. true/false and multiple choice-style. You will have 12 hours to complete the exam, during which time you can come and go from it (it is not timed).
Extra Credit	Not Offered	N/A	I do not offer extra-credit assignments. You must maintain your focus and commitment from the beginning of the course, and ensure you do your best on each assignment. I maintain this policy in the best interests of students, and as a matter of fairness in assessment. Offering extra-credit can have the effect of encouraging an uneven effort throughout the course, and an excessively full schedule at the end of it.

Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	100% - 90%	Excellent
B	80% - 89%	Good
C	70% - 79%	Fair
D	60% - 69%	Passing
F	Below 59%	Fail

✱ Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Instructional Modalities

Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

Incomplete Policy

In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 85% of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

Missed or Late Assignments/Make-Up Policy

ALL late work *without documentation* attracts a 2% late point penalty.

I can accept late Discussion Board posts.

I can accept late Quizzes, *but not longer than 7 days* (as I will release the solutions at that time).

I can accept late Case-Study essays.

I can make arrangements for a missed Final Exam - within 2 days of the final due date/time. *This is not an opportunity to retake the exam*, and it is only available if your are able to provide a documented excuse for missing it.

Please send documentation if you require an *excused late submit.*

Please reach out to me if you are struggling with an assignment, rather than skip it completely! I'm here to help.

Academic Integrity

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: Scholastic Dishonesty will result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services. The student will be reported to the HCC system, where his or her name remains on their student file; the person may fail the assignment, or fail the entire course.

SO: please do not copy from other sources without citing them. This includes internet sources, other students' essays, articles etc. **Moreover, using large language models such as ChatGPT etc. to write your essays is NOT allowed.** This is plagiarism, and is easily detected. I will include links to style guides on Canvas, so you can master a system of citing sources that works for you. I am also happy to help you with a citation style, just ask me.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/ (https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/)

Attendance Procedures

As this course is Online Anytime, I will track 'attendance' by monitoring your activity and participation in Canvas. I do not have any minimum requirements here, so long as you are covering all of the materials and assignments. If I find your grade is falling, or if you have not logged in for some time, will follow up by email or HCC advisors to reach out and see what we can do to help you re-engage.

Student Conduct

This Online Anytime course requires a good deal of student interaction online The standard code of online conduct applies, plus: be respectful, listen to others, be kind and supportive of your classmates.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information

How to proceed with this course:

- Get familiar with our Canvas site; tour around and be sure you know where to find things. Just contact me if there is anything you do not understand.
- We will work through the series of Modules I have created, which contain all the materials you need. There is a Module for each week and each topic in the course. Work through them according to the Course Schedule.
- Watch videos on PLAGIARISM if you have not already - available on my Learning Web page.
- **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 AS LISTED IN THE MODULES** (readings are only given generally, not specifically, in the Schedule), 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!)

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).

Feedback:

1. I will read my email and the discussion board postings at least daily, but will not necessarily post messages or send out mail daily.
2. I will respond to general communications (email, voicemails, and questions on the Q&A discussion forum) within 48-72 hours.
3. If you have a concern that I think others will benefit from hearing discussed, I will ask you to post it on the Class Info discussion board.
4. You will receive a grade for your assignments *usually* within a week of submission.
5. I use rubrics extensively to give you feedback on your writing. please be sure to read the rubric results along with your grade - this contains important information to help you improve your work. I am also available at any time to give you in-depth and complete individual feedback on your academic performance, and I'm happy to help you develop your skills - just ask me!
6. I will send out general comments for each Discussion Board when all are graded.

Faculty Statement about Student Success

The 5 week online course is very intensive. It is an entire semester of work compressed into less than half the time we would normally take. So, it is very important to keep up with the reading and the assessments. Reach out to me if you are struggling.

To succeed in this course, you should expect to be working on the materials at least 5 hours per day, and preferably more. An important component of successfully completing this course consists of logging in to the course a *minimum* of twice a week to get your assignments, reading announcements, and posting discussions. Logging in daily is recommended.

Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

🏛 HCC Policies and Information

HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

Link to Policies in Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: https://catalog.hccs.edu/ (https://catalog.hccs.edu/)

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- Ability 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

Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct (https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct) (scroll down to subsections)

Campus Carry Link

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

https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry (https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry)

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 (https://www.hccs.edu/email) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement: https://www.hccs.edu/eeo (https://www.hccs.edu/eeo)

Ability 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 https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility (https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility)

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 (mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)

https://www.hccs.edu/titleix (https://www.hccs.edu/titleix)

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

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.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: https://www.hccs.edu/online/ (https://www.hccs.edu/online/)

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/ (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/)

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 during office hours, and 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 (https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook)

Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

EGLS3

The EGLS[3] ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System (https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)) 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. EGLS[3] surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. ‑EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

[https://www.hccs.edu/egls3 (https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

If you are experiencing any hardship related to food, shelter, mental health, or other basic needs areas, please visit the Basic Needs page for resources ([https://www.hccs.edu/cares (https://www.hccs.edu/cares)](https://www.hccs.edu/cares)). You have the option to take the Basic Needs Questionnaire and ask to be contacted by a counselor for additional assistance or support ([https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds (https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)](https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

Student Resources

Tutoring

HCC provides free and convenient academic support, in a large variety of subjects, to HCC students in both an online environment and in-person on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services website for more information at [https://hccs.edu/tutoring (https://hccs.edu/tutoring)](https://hccs.edu/tutoring).

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at [https://library.hccs.edu (https://library.hccs.edu/)](https://library.hccs.edu/).

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at [https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction (https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction)](https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction)

Resources for Students:

[https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students (https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students)](https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students)

Basic Needs Resources:

[https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/ (https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/)](https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/)

Student Basic Needs Application:

[https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds (https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)](https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)

COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

Instructional Modalities

In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publically posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston Community College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Unauthorized Disclosure

"Unauthorized disclosure" occurs when any student provides instructional materials and/or assessments to other students in violation of a clear prohibition by the instructor. Examples include: posting assessment items to online sites such as Chegg or CourseHero; asking exam questions in forums like Reddit or Yahoo Answers; discussions of confidential question using Wechat or GroupMe, etc.

📅 Course Calendar

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.

Dates (week begins)	Week	TOPIC	Sub-topics	REQUIRED READING (this is the primary reading; there will be other required materials to be found in the Modules for each class)	Assessment (Due 7pm on due date unless otherwise specified. Quizzes open at 7am and close at 7pm on the day due.)

01/17	1	Introduction to Ethics Sub-topics in Ethics	What is Ethics? The divisions of Ethics: Meta-ethics & Normative Ethics.	**To have already completed:** 1. Matthews (textbook) Chpt. 1: The Examined Life	Post on 'Who We Are' on our class website. (If you do not post, I may have to count you as 'absent' and this could lead to being dropped from the course!)
01/23	2	LOGIC: Intro to some formal and informal logic: Validity and soundness; informal fallacies and biases; critical thinking.	· Validity and Soundness · Identifying premises and conclusions	1. Textbook, Chpt. 2 AND Chpt. 3 2. Materials in Canvas	
01/30	3		· Representing arguments schematically · Assessing for validity · Logical Fallacies	1. Materials in Canvas 2. Practice quizzes	Quiz #1 due 02/04
02/06	4	RELIGION & ETHICS: What is the relationship between religion and ethical/moral behaviors?	· Are atheists immoral?	1. Textbook, Chpt. 5: Religion & Ethics	
02/13	5		· The Euthyphro and Divine Command Theory	1. Plato, Euthyphro	Discussion Post (DP) #1 due 02/18
02/20	6	META-ETHICAL THEORIES: Is morality 'factual', like science? Or is it relative to us, more like a matter of taste?	Ethical Relativism	1. Ruth Benedict 2. Material on Canvas	Quiz #2 due 02/25
02/27	7		Ethical Objectivism	1. Russ Schafer Landau	
03/06	8	NORMATIVE ETHICAL THEORIES: Hedonism	Is being happy and feeling good the highest aim for humans?	1. Russ Shafer-Landau on Hedonism 2. Lycan, 'The Experience Machine'	Quiz #3 due 03/11
03/13	9	Spring Break Yay!			

03/20	10	Egoism	Is looking after one's own best interests, exclusively, the morally right thing to do?	1. Textbook, Chpt. 6: Egoism Boss, 'Egoism and Capitalism'	Quiz #4 due 03/25
03/27	11	Utilitarianism	Consequentialism and Classical Utilitarianism	1. Textbook, Chpt. 8: Utilitarianism	
04/03	12	Kant and Deontology	Kantian Moral Theory	1. Textbook, Chpt. 9: Kant and the Ethics of Duty	Quiz #5 due 04/08
04/10	13	Aristotle's Virtue Ethics	Virtue Ethics and *Eudaimonia*	1. Aristotle, excerpt from the *Nicomachean Ethics*	DP #2 due 04/15
04/17	14	Case Studies	Applying ethical theories to real-life scenarios	1. Case Studies in Canvas	Quiz #6 due 04/22
04/24	15				Case Studies due 04/29
05/01	16	Exam revision		Course Review opens	
05/08		Final Exam			05/09 Final Exam Opens at 7am, closes at 7pm. All done! Congratulations!

Additional Information

Departmental/Program Information

The HCC philosophy program provides students opportunities to explore and cultivate open, critical ways to understand the search for truth and to examine the moral implications of thinking and action in an increasingly technologically driven multicultural world.

AWARD TYPES: Associate in Arts

AREA OF STUDY: Liberal Arts, Humanities & Education

Careers in Field

An undergraduate degree in Philosophy prepares graduates for careers which include writing, journalism, policy-making, teaching, law and business. Additional studies may be needed.

Transfer/Advising Plan

https://www.hccs.edu/finder/programs/transfer-advising-plan-for-philosophy-specialty-area---aa/ (https://www.hccs.edu/finder/programs/transfer-advising-plan-for-philosophy-specialty-area---aa/)

Student Organizations

Ethics Bowl - Contact: Jason Jenson (jason.jenson@hccs.edu) or Cinnamon Jenson (cinnamon.jenson@hccs.edu)

Philosophy Club - Contact: Jacob Mills (jacob.mills@hccs.edu)

Scholarships

HCC

[Monthly Scholarship Opportunities](#)

[HCC Foundation Scholarships](#)

[HCC Foundation Scholarships for F-1 Students](#)

[Eagle Promise – Free Degree Program](#)

[HCC Honors College Scholarship](#)

[Impact Scholarship](#)

[Chancellor Scholarship](#)

Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Dr. Brandon Williams, brandon.williams@hccs.edu, 713-718-7258