

Ethics Syllabus

Discipline/Program: Philosophy

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics

Course Rubric and Number: PHIL 2306-6093

Semester with Course Reference Number (CRN):

2019Summer Semester, Section: 11533/11537

Course Location/Times: Online

Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH): 3 Hours, Lecture

Course Contact Hours: 48 Contact Hours

Course Length (number of weeks): 8 weeks

Type of Instruction: Online

Instructor Name: SL Shoemaker

Phone Number (Office): 713-718-7000

Email Address: steven.shoemaker@hccs.edu

Emergency Contact: shoemakerhcc@gmail.com

E-Mail Conferencing: E-mail using the EO email system. Responses within 48 hours

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. Core Curriculum Course.(HCCS Catalog). The presentation of this topic includes traditional and contemporary theoretical notions concerning the nature of goodness, happiness, duty, freedom and virtue, as well as practical applications of moral reasoning through the study of specific cases. Through round table discussions and analysis of cases, which applies moral reasoning, the student acquires skills to analyze contemporary moral dilemmas.

Course Prerequisites: Must be placed into college level reading and college level writing. Completion of at least PHIL 1303 or ENGL 1302

Course Goals: Among its goals, this course stresses the HCCS core competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy. Specifically, students will: Learn the concepts in ethical discourse, which include consequentialist moral theories, non consequentialist theories, natural law, and ethics of respect. Form new and improved critical habits of thought. Discover the relations between an open mind and sound judgment. Master the basics of logic and concept formation in written and oral communication. Cultivate imagination and creativity in learning. Grasp the idea of independence in a multi-cultural global environment.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Course Objectives:

1.1 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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

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.

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SCANS SKILLS

* Texas Colleges must demonstrate that the Basic Intellectual Core Competencies are incorporated into all Core courses. This course addresses the competencies in the following ways:

Reading: The lecture notes, PowerPoint Presentations, Virtual Reader, the textbook, and the monograph will provide the basis for Unit Quizzes, Class Discussion, Semester Writing Assignment, and the Midterm and Final Exams.

Writing: Students will write all contributions to Class Discussion, and will conduct most communication with the instructor through the typewritten word. Students will write answers to essay questions and papers. A portion of the unit quiz assignments will be written.

Speaking: Students may phone the instructor for supplemental information or clarification of assignments as needed. Students working in groups have the opportunity to develop their academic speaking proficiency.

Listening: Students will practice critical listening to the streamed audio reviews and / or "talking" PowerPoint presentations. Some of the entries in the Virtual Reader include audio clips. Students working in groups will have the opportunity to develop their listening skills. Students will take notes from a spoken lecture each Thursday.

Critical Thinking: Many of the Unit Assignments contain questions and problems that will require higher-level, "critical" thinking skills to solve successfully. The Midterm and Final exams, the Semester Writing Assignment, and essay assignments contain more of the same.

Computer Literacy: Web-based courses such as this one require significant computer literacy from the students, who must be proficient at navigating the web, sending and receiving email, exchanging electronic files, navigating PowerPoint slides, participating in threaded discussions, word processing written work, and using online testing procedures.

Course Calendar:

[First Quiz – Read Arguments and Writing Forms](#) (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

9 June 2019 11:55 PM

[Fallacies Quiz](#) (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

16 June 2019 11:55 PM

Elements of Ethics Test

23 June 2019 11:55 PM

Stealing – Heinz and Levels of Moral Development - Read de Beauvoir

30 June 2019 11:55 PM

Lies and [Truth and "By the Waters of Babylon"](#) (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#) Read Plato and Stephan Vincent

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7 July 2019 11:55 PM

The Real Human Being

14 July 2019 11:55 PM

[Final –Application -- Analyze Thyself](#) (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)~~

DUE 23 July 2019 11:55 PM

Instructional Methods: Notes and Handouts, PowerPoint Presentations, Unit Quizzes, Major Weekly Writing Assignments

Student Assignments: Read a variety of philosophical material, complete quizzes and exams, and weekly research papers, participate in online discussion, and note-taking.

Student Assessments: Unit Quizzes, Major Weekly Writing Assignments Final Semester Writing Assignment Project

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Students will be required to read numerous pages of lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, and other online resources.

Suggested Hardcopy Texts:

Grube//Plato:Five Dialogues, Hackett Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2002, ISBN (978-0-87220-633-5)

Taking Sides: Moral Issues//S. Satris, ed. MacGraw-Hill, 11th Edition, 2008 ISBN: 978-0—07-339715-3

Aquinas, Thomas //The Cardinal Virtues// Hackett Publishing 1st Edition, 1988//ISBN 0-87220-745-5

Kant, Immanuel //Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals//Mary Gregor, trsl. Cambridge University Press, 1997 1st Edition

Bentham and Mill//Classical Utilitarianism//J. Troyer ed.//Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 2003 ISBN: 0-87220-649-1

Ghandi, Mahatma//Selected Political Writings//Hackett Publishing 1st Edition, 1996//ISBN 0-87220-330-1

HCC Policy Statements:

ADA: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Any student with a documented disability, (i.e. physical, learning, psychiatric, visual, 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 are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the disability services office. The counselor for Southeast College can be reached at 713 718-7218.

Academic Honesty:

Academic irregularities cannot be tolerated. Attempts to compromise the integrity of this course will result in a grade of zero for the assignment or dismissal from the class. Students must not collaborate on the exams in any way (including the use of materials from former students) and must not copy material from any source to use as their essay answers or discussion contributions. See the HCCS Student Handbook for details.

Cheating is not that hard to define and as college students, you should have a firm idea about what cheating is. Just to be clear, here are a few simple definitions:

- Cheating is: Copying from another student's exam.

- Cheating is: During a exam, using materials not authorized by the person giving the exam.

- Cheating is: Collaborating with another student during a exam without proper authority.

- Cheating is: Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an exam or paper.

- Cheating is: Bribing another person to obtain a copy of an exam.

Cheating is: **Plagiarism** ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) which means using *someone's work or someone's ideas* and representing them to be your own. That "someone" may be another student, a friend, a relative, a book author, an author of material on a web site, etc. Do not take material from anywhere without giving proper credit or reference. In other words, do not copy from an Internet source and paste it into your essay answer space. **ADDITIONALLY:** proper MLA-format must be used for a paper to be legal, so incorrect formatting can result in up to 50% grade reduction.

- Cheating is: Collusion, which means the *unauthorized* collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit when you represent that work to be your own.

In this class:

- My penalty for academic dishonesty is a grade of zero on the assignment.

- The penalty for gross plagiarism and cheating on exams is failure in the course.
- Depending on severity and frequency, academic dishonesty can lead to a recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System.

Make certain you are familiar with the MLA format and handbook, and the MLA summary sheet provided by me the first day. If you ever have any question about what is cheating, what is plagiarism or what is unauthorized collusion, please contact me before you do anything or submit anything. It is much better to ask first than to get caught later.

Late Work:

Assignments may be accepted after the due date for *five days only* (Friday), but only with valid reason and only for no more than 50% credit.

Incompletes:

Given proper documentation and communication, an incomplete may be considered for medical reasons.

Student Attendance:

You are expected to attend all *lecture classes* regularly; You are expected to log in on all online at least once a week . You are also responsible for materials covered during your absences. Instructors may be willing to consult with you for make-up assignments, but it is your responsibility to contact the instructor. Class attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences. You may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the total hours of instruction (lecture and lab). For example: For a three credit-hour lecture class meeting three hours per week (48 hours of instruction), you can be dropped after six hours of absence.

3-peaters:

NOTICE: Students who take a course more than twice face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor / counselor about opportunities for tutoring/other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal or if you are not receiving passing grades.

The Texas State Legislature has begun to impose penalties on students who drop courses excessively. In 2007, the Legislature passed a law limiting students to no more than 6 total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your instructor will “alert” you and HCC

student services of the chance you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performances. You should visit with your instructor, a counselor, or HCC online Student Services to learn about your options.

Students **MUST** visit with a faculty advisor, a counselor, or online student services prior to withdrawal from class. If a withdrawal is to be given, this must be done prior to **8 July 2019 at 4:30pm at 4:30pm**. After that date and time, students will no longer be allowed to drop and will receive the grade that they earned. Any remaining assignments not submitted will receive a zero; thus, students will be subject to receiving an F for the class. Faculty will **NO** longer be allowed to give Ws on the final grade sheet; any faculty who wishes to withdraw a student will be required to process the drop **BEFORE 8 July 2019 at 4:30pm**.

Withdrawal Deadline:

It is your responsibility to withdraw officially from a class and prevent an “F” from appearing on your transcript. When considering withdrawal from a course, remember that:

- No grade is given and your transcript reflects no record of the course if you withdraw before the Official Date of Record.
- A “W” (indicating withdrawal) appears on your transcript if you drop a course after the Official Date of Record and before the final deadline.
- The final deadline to drop the course is

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is given for the course, it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Since January 1, 2003, International Students are restricted in the number of distance education courses that they may take during each semester. **ONLY ONE** online/distance education class may be counted towards the enrollment requirement for International Students per semester. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Student Course Reinstatement Policy:

Students have a responsibility to arrange payment for their classes when they register, either through cash, credit card, financial aid, or the installment plan. Faculty members have a responsibility to check their class rolls regularly, especially during the early weeks of a term, and reconcile the official class roll to ensure that no one is attending class whose name does not appear on the rolls. Students who are dropped from their courses for non-payment of tuition and fees, who request reinstatement after the official date of

record (OE date), can be reinstated by making payment in full and paying an additional \$75 per course reinstatement fee. A student requesting reinstatement should present the registrar with a completed Enrollment Authorization Form with the signature of the instructor, the department chair, or the dean, who should verify that the student has been regularly attending class. Students who are reinstated are responsible for all course policies and procedures, including attendance requirements. A dean may waive the reinstatement fee upon determination that the student was dropped because of a college error. The dean should note the nature of the error in a memo to the registrar with the appropriate documentation.

Instructor Requirements:

Unit quizzes and arguments, six researched papers, and final project.

Program/Discipline Requirements:

A minimum of 50% of the student's semester average must come from writing assignments.

HCC Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 and below

Instructor Grading Criteria :

Essay Assignments, Exercises, and Quizzes, and Examinations - 100 %

Topical reading and writing assignments involve comprehension of essays and narrations and delving into specifics on the issues. *The class is essay based*, and proper formatting is essential for legal reasons. Essays will be done using MLA style. Essays containing obvious spelling errors will have 30 points deducted from the total earned. Poor diction and grammar will result in an additional 30 point deduction.

Additional Items:

Access to the course is the student's responsibility, and course deadlines cannot be altered due to access interruption or equipment failure on the student's side.

To avoid confusion, all work for this class must be submitted within Eagle Online in the Assignment Submission area. Do not send any completed assignments to any non- Eagle Online email address. Do not print work out to mail or drop off at a campus. All written communication must be conducted within Eagle Online email.

Please note that for deadline purposes, the Eagle Online clock is the "official" clock, even if you are certain that your watch keeps perfect time.

Eagle Online USER ID:

Your Eagle Online login user ID will be your HCC User ID (sometimes referred to as the "W" number). All HCC students have a unique User ID. If you do not know your User ID you can look it up by visiting the HCC home page:

- **From www.hccs.edu, under the column "CONNECT", click on the "Student System Sign In" link**
- **Then click on "Retrieve User ID" and follow the instructions.**

Or use the direct link to access the Student Sign In page:

<https://hccsaweb.hccs.edu:8080/psp/csprd/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG>

The default student password is "distance." Students will then be prompted to change their password after their first login. Please visit DE Technical Support website if you need additional assistance with your log in.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

This is a course about the origins of philosophical discourse and history of ideas, including the formalization of logic and sound argument, and its relation to our concept of knowledge and learning. The standards of thinking and expression found in

philosophy embrace every principle and method found in core critical thinking competencies. Readings are taken from a range of primary sources provided the instructor from a discipline committee approved list, and may include a broad variety beginning with fragments from the Pre-socratics through works by Medieval philosophers including Augustine and Thomas Aquinas – this meets the reading criterion for the Basic Intellectual Competencies in the HCC Core Curriculum. Selected readings must include works by Plato and Aristotle and are assessed by quizzes, exams, presentations, and discussions.

Students must write at least 3,000 words during this course. This number is achieved in a variety of ways. For example, course sections that incorporate assistance may include online submissions for required message board posts, research projects, and exam essays. Non- Eagle Onlinesections achieve these same writing minimums with in-class essays and a major research project. The evaluation of written work adheres to the professional teaching standards of philosophy for content, and correct grammar. Students are advised that computer knowledge, word processing skills, and data base learning and research skills are necessary to complete this course – this meets the writing, critical thinking, and computer literacy criterion for the Basic Intellectual Competencies in the HCC Core Curriculum. While this is particularly true of course sections that are either offered online, or incorporate assistance, all sections require online research and computer generated work product. Help is available for students who lack these skills upon entering the course.

This course is taught in large part using technology (PowerPoint presentations and Eagle Online), but much of the comprehension and assessment elements come from the time-honor Socratic Method, where the instructor asks questions of the students to stimulate discussion and understanding; students are expected to do analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the presented philosophical elements – this meets the listening, speaking, and critical thinking criterion for the Basic Intellectual Competencies in the HCC Core Curriculum

This syllabus is meant as a guide and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. If there are any changes made, the student will be notified in a timely manner.