

Philosophy 1301—Introduction to Philosophy

Professor Goll

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Student conference hours—TBA and by appointment

Required Texts

Texts are listed in the order in which they will be used in class. Links are provided when a work is available as an online text. Additional texts may be assigned during the semester and will be made available online.

1. Grube//*Plato: Five Dialogues*//Hackett Publishing, 2nd Edition, 2002//ISBN 978-0-87220-633-5
<http://classics.mit.edu>
2. Wollstonecraft, Mary//*A Vindication of the Rights of Men & Woman & Hints*//Sylvana Tomaselli, ed.//Cambridge, 1995//ISBN-13: 978052143633
http://files.libertyfund.org/files/991/Wollstonecraft_0532_EBk_v5.pdf
3. Hume, David//*An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*//Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 1993//ISBN 0-87220-229-1
<http://18th.eserver.org/hume-enquiry.html>
4. Gandhi, Mahatma//*Selected Political Writings*//Hackett Publishing, 1st Edition, 1996//ISBN 0-87220-330-1

Course Description

A general introduction to critical and reflective thinking as applied to the basic problems of knowledge, existence and the meaning of human life and institutions (HCCS Catalog). Treatment of these topics focuses on, though is not restricted to, the history of western ideas, beginning with writings by ancient Greek thinkers. Course topics explore the nature and abiding presence of philosophy in human discourse, and its impact on current developments in science, religious understanding, and political thought.

Course Goals

Among its goals, this course stresses the core competencies of written and spoken discourse, critical thinking, and computer literacy. Specifically, students will:

- Participate in a dialectic analysis of philosophy, its historic origins, and its various perspectives and impact on learning, including areas and topics of inquiry and their relation to human understanding.
- Develop critical and reflective 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.
- Develop an appreciation of philosophy's relation to community well-being.
- Cultivate imagination and creativity in learning.
- Grasp the idea of inter-dependence in a multi-cultural global environment.

Student Learning Outcomes

The Philosophy Program Committee at HCC has identified five student learning outcomes (SLOs) for each course within the Philosophy Program. The intended outcomes for Philosophy 1301 are that students will:

- **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.
- **Interpret and Explain** core philosophical questions and concepts in terms that illustrate a comprehensive understanding of each.
- **Apply** core philosophical questions and concepts to contemporary issues and personal experience.
- **Compare and Contrast** related core philosophical questions and concepts, and the correlative thinkers and schools with which they are commonly associated.
- **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.

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities will be provided all reasonable accommodations. An accommodations request from the campus HCCS ADA counselor is required for documentation.

Academic Honesty

The HCCS Student Handbook lists acts of 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.” Possible punishments are “a grade of ‘0’ or ‘F’ on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System” See the Student Handbook.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies

Any student who misses the first two classes of the semester will be automatically dropped from the course by the Registrar’s Office. After that, students who are no longer able to attend class for whatever reason are responsible for withdrawing from the course themselves. Any student who has not dropped the course by the official date of withdrawal on November 3rd will be given a grade for the course. The state of Texas now requires that a student with excessive absences be given a grade of FX which could entail repayment of financial aid.

Grading

Exams (essay)	60%
Reading Quizzes (drop 2 lowest)	15%
Philosophical Analysis Paper	15%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	10%

Readings and AssignmentsWeek I

8/29 Background/Course Introduction

8/31 Socratic Method

***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Euthyphro <<<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>>>

READING QUIZ I

Week II

9/5 Labor Day Holiday

9/7 The Examined Life

***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Apology <<<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>>>

Week III

9/12 The Examined Life

***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Apology <<<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>>>

9/14 The Just Life

***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Crito <<<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html>>>

READING QUIZ II

Week IV

9/19 Exam I Review

9/21 Exam I

Week V

9/26 The Enlightenment/Universality of Reason

***Reading: Wollstonecraft—Vindication of the Rights of Men

9/28 Reason and Political Liberation

***Reading: Wollstonecraft—Vindication of the Rights of Men

READING QUIZ III

Week VI

10/3 Reason and Political Liberation

***Reading: Wollstonecraft—Vindication of the Rights of Men

10/5 Private Property and Personal Freedom

***Reading: Wollstonecraft—Vindication of the Rights of Men

READING QUIZ IV

Week VII

10/10 Exam II Review

10/12 Exam II

Week VIII

10/17 Origins of Knowledge

***Reading: Hume—An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, sects II & III

10/19 Knowledge and Skepticism

***Reading: Hume—An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, sect IV

READING QUIZ V

Week XI

10/24 The Role of Reason

***Reading: Hume—An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, sects V & VI

10/26 Liberty & Necessity

***Reading: Hume—An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, sect VIII

READING QUIZ VI

Week X

10/31 Exam III Review

11/2 Exam IIIWeek XI

11/7 & 9 Satyagraha

***Reading: Gandhi—Selected Political Writings, Pt 1

QUIZ VII (11/7)

Week XII

11/14 Swaraj

***Reading: Gandhi—Selected Political Writings, Pt 2

QUIZ VIII

11/16 Satyagraha & Swaraj

***Reading: Gandhi—Selected Political Writings, Pts 1 & 2

Exam IV Review

Week XIII**11/21 Exam IV**Week XIII cont'd

11/23 Philosophical Analysis Paper Topic/Assignment Details

***Reading: TBA

Week XIV

11/28 Paper Conference Day

12/30 Draft Check—REQUIRED

Week XV

12/5 Conference Day

12/7 Philosophical Analysis Due

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

Week XVI**12/12 FINAL EXAM**