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.

   http://classics.mit.edu
   http://files.libertyfund.org/files/991/Wollstonecraft_0532_EBk_v5.pdf
   http://18th.eserver.org/hume-enquiry.html

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 Assignments**

**Week I**
8/29 Background/Course Introduction
8/31 Socratic Method
  ***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Euthyphro [link]
  READING QUIZ I

**Week II**
9/5 Labor Day Holiday
9/7 The Examined Life
  ***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Apology [link]

**Week III**
9/12 The Examined Life
  ***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Apology [link]
9/14 The Just Life
  ***Reading: Plato—Five Dialogues, Crito [link]
  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 III
Week 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