Syllabus for Philosophy 1301: Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2012

Course Description:
PHIL1301Section 200: Introduction to Philosophy

Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading
An introduction to the ideas about such things as the good life, reality, God, the acquisition and characteristics of knowledge, and the nature of humans. Students will evaluate both ancient and modern theories about these issues in terms of their logic, historical significance, and meaning in everyday life, as they practice the methods for doing philosophy. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015135

PHIL1301 is included in the DCCCD Core Curriculum. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking fundamental to all DCCCD Core Curriculum courses. It also provides students with the opportunity to achieve the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Exemplary Objectives in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Instructor:
Dr. Thomas C. Cross
Office Hours: Before class or make an appointment
Phone: 972 860-4130
Email: tcross@dcccd.edu

Required Text:

Course Objectives & Goals:
This is an introduction to philosophy course. We will examine several traditional philosophical problems. Among the questions we will investigate are: Is there a God? If there is a God, why is there evil? What is the “mind”? Can computers think? What makes something the ethical thing to do? Do humans have free will?

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC)

PHIL 1301 satisfies the following Core Curriculum Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

1. Reading: the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials-books, documents, and articles-above the 12th grade level.
2. Writing: the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience-above the 12th grade level.
3. Speaking: the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience-above the 12th grade level.
4. Listening: analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading-above the 12th grade level.
5. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.
Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO)

PHIL1301, as part of the Core Curriculum, satisfies the following Exemplary Educational Objectives in the humanities and visual and performing arts set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

By successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities,
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical context,
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities,
4. Articulate an informal personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities, and
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

PHIL1301 Course Objectives

PHIL1301 course objectives describe the content covered in all DCCCD PHIL1301 courses: These objectives address the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC) and the Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO) in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Upon completion of PHIL1301, students should be able to demonstrate competence in philosophy by:

1. Displaying knowledge of a variety of philosophical theories by taking quizzes and answering multiple choice questions that will identify key concepts and definitions from various philosophical theories. (This objective satisfies CCIC 1 & 5 and EEO 1, and 5)
2. Developing an informed personal reaction to a philosophical theory by writing an essay in which they articulate and explain their personal response to a philosophical position. (This objective satisfies CCIC 2 & 5 and EEO 3, and 4).
3. Applying critical thinking skills to complex problems by writing an essay in which they will explain the strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position including its historical and cultural impact. (This objective satisfies CCIC 2 & 5 and EEO 2, 3, and 5).

Course Requirements:

You are expected to be present and prepared for class each day. This means that each day you will have read that day’s assignment (see schedule below) and will be ready to ask questions about any material which you found puzzling. I will often invite questions or comments from the class. Your participation will only help your level of comprehension. Thus, it is to your advantage to read each assignment carefully, attend every class, and participate in discussions as much as possible. Your grade will be a factor of 4 elements: quizzes, exams, presentations and one book report.

1. Quizzes: There will be pop-quizzes throughout the semester. I will drop the two worst grades. The content of the quizzes will vary. Most of the quizzes will be questions straight from the material you were supposed to study before class. Since I will drop the 2 lowest quiz scores, I will not give make-up quizzes for any reason. Also note that I may give a quiz at any time during class, so do not leave early, and be on time.
2. Exams: You will have a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam (see the schedule below for the dates). One week before the exam, I will give you essay questions to study. Then, on the day of the exam, I will give a selection of the essay questions from the study guide and you must write on some of them (your choice). The essay should be around 200 words long. I will not give the final exam at any time other than the scheduled time.
3. Presentations: The students in the class will divide into groups of 4-6. Each group will research a topic and make a presentation of about 15 minutes (see schedule below for date of presentation). A handout will give details about the topics.
4. Scholarly Book Report: Each student will read one original philosophical work and write a report (See schedule below for date of book report). A handout will give details of what is expected on the report. Also, a list of books will be given from which each student will choose a book to read.
5. There will also be chapter quizzes. Details will be given in class. I will drop the lowest grade.

**Grading:**
The pop quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade, the Mid-term will count for 25%, the Final will count for 25%, the presentation will count 10%, and the book report will count as 20% of your grade. The chapter quizzes will make up 10%.
I grade according to the standard 10-point scale and I do not curve grades:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 59 and below = F

**Attendance Policy:**
I do not count attendance as part of your grade. However, if you miss several classes, or if you are regularly tardy, you will miss a few quizzes, and that will affect your grade.

**Absence due to Religious Holy Days:**
Students who will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holiday must notify the instructor in advance. Please refer to the college catalog, Student Obligations section.

**ADA Statement:**
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact BHC College Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

**Withdraw Dates:**
If you are unable to complete this course, you must withdraw by November 15 to drop without a “W”. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which you must initiate. I cannot do it for you. You may do this in Admissions or counseling. If you stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F”.

**Financial Aid Recipients:**
Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester.

**STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE AFTER THE DROP DATE ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO THIS POLICY**

**Third Attempt**
Effective for the Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third of subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other course will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

**Academic dishonesty:**
Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty include, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Dallas County Community Colleges Catalog.
https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm
Cheating:
Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic dishonesty:
1. Copying the work of another student during an examination.
2. Copying from the textbook during an examination.
3. Informing a person of the contents of an examination prior to the time the examination is given.
4. Failing to credit sources used in a work or project in an attempt to pass off the work as one’s own.
5. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources, including the internet.
6. Attempting to receive credit in one or more classes for the same paper or project without written approval of instructors involved.
7. Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of scholastic dishonesty.
8. Taking an examination for another person or allowing someone to take an examination for you.
9. Signing an attendance sheet for another student or committing similar acts of impersonation.

Cheating or any kind will result in an “0” for that assignment. A second infraction will result in the grade of “F” for the semester and a report sent, by the instructor, to the proper college officials.

Make-Up Quizzes & Exams:
As mentioned above, I will not give a make-up quiz for any reason. I drop 2 and you should not be absent or tardy more than 2 times. So, you should have no reason to need a make-up quiz. Since the final exam is at the end of the semester, you clearly cannot make it up. Thus, the mid-term is the only exam or quiz that you may be able to make-up. If you miss the mid-term, you must notify me before class that you will be absent, or within one day of the exam date. You must have an excused absence. If you fail to notify me in time, or the absence is unexcused, you will not be able to make-up the exam.

Late Papers:
Your papers are late one second after class ends on the dates due (see schedule below). This does not refer to the scheduled class time, as we may end class early. Once class has been dismissed, your paper is late. If your paper is late, you will lose one letter grade for each day that it is late. This means that any paper that is more than 3 days late will receive an “F” regardless. I am not talking about class days but days of the week. Note: Even if your paper is late, turn it in. An “F” is better than a “0”. However, I will not accept late papers after they are 2 weeks late. If you will miss a paper due date because of a College sponsored activity (Athletics, professional conference, etc.) you must notify me prior to the due date and you must bring an official excuse after the event. The paper must be turned in promptly upon your return to campus. If you do all this, the paper will not be counted as late.

The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course or syllabus.

Students will be able to retrieve their grades on-line through the internet on DCCCD eConnect web-site at http://econnect.dcccd.edu or through the telephone touch-tone system at 972-613-1818. Students who do not have internet access at home or work may also access their grades by using drop-in computer labs at various college locations. Students must select the Student Menu, click on My Personal info. And scroll down to My grades. Students may request official academic transcripts free of charge at the Admissions Office. Student advising report (an unofficial document, which includes a history of their DCCCD coursework, grades, GPA, and academic standing) are also available from both the Academic Advising Office and the Admissions Office.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Chapter 1.1; Readings pp. 58-61</td>
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<td>Chapter 1.2-1.3; Readings pp. 62-73</td>
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The Problem of Skepticism

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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Quiz Due; Chapter 7.1; Readings pp 624-630</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>Chapter 7.1; Readings pp 631-636</td>
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The Problem of Evil and the Existence of God

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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Chapter 6.1; Readings pp 539-545; Chapter 7 Quiz due</td>
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<td>9/27</td>
<td>Chapter 6.3; Readings 555-560</td>
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<td>Chapter 6.3</td>
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The Mind/Body Problem

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<tr>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Quiz due; Chapter 2.1; 167-171</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
<td>Chapter 2.2-2.3; Readings pp 172-183</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>Chapter 2.4-2.5; Readings pp 184-185</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>Chapter 2 quiz due; Review</td>
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Free Will and Determinism

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<tr>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Chapter 3.1; Readings 242-252</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
<td>Chapter 3.2-3.3; Readings 253-262; Mid Term Due</td>
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The Problem of Relativism and Morality

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading and Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Quiz due; Chapter 5.1; Readings 433-438</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Chapter 5.2; Readings 439-446</td>
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<td>11/1</td>
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11/6  Chapter 5.3; Readings 447-455
11/8  Chapter 5.4
11/13  Ethics movie
11/15  Ethics movie; Book report due

The Problem of Personal Identity

11/20  Chapter 5 Quiz due; Chapter 4.1; Readings 326-329
11/27  Chapter 4.2; Readings 330-337
11/29  Chapter 4.3; Readings 338-342
12/4  Chapter 4 quiz due; presentations
12/6  Presentations
12/11  Final Exam 8:00-9:50