GENERAL INFORMATION
College Name Cedar Valley College
Division Liberal Arts
Semester/Term & Year Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Name DR. CHRISTINA M. TOMCZAK
DCCCD E-mail address ctomczak@dcccd.edu
Telephone 972-860-8059
Office Number C218
Office Hours 10:30 – 11:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM Mon. – Wed.

COURSE INFORMATION
Course Number PHIL 1301
Section Number 3001
Credit Hours 3
Class Meeting Time 11:00 – 12:20 Monday and Wednesday
Course Title Introduction to Philosophy

Course Description
Philosophy 1301 is an introduction to ideas about such things as the good life, reality, God, the characteristics of knowledge and the nature of persons. You will have the opportunity to evaluate both ancient and modern theories about these issues in terms of their historical significance and meaning in everyday life, while practicing the methods of doing philosophy. Life questions? Big Questions? What do we know about our universe? Life after death? How do we know about God and beliefs of others? How do we make good moral decisions for families, work and ourselves? Your work in this class will involve discussions on these and other contemporary topics!

Course Prerequisites: One of the following must be met: (1) Developmental Reading 0093 AND Developmental Writing 0093; (2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or (3) Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading and Writing standards.

ecampus access: All students enrolled in this course also are automatically enrolled in an online module for the course available at: ecampus.dcccd.edu. The Syllabus is available on ecampus along with homework assignments and other materials, i.e. handouts and instruction sheets, so that they are readily available for you. A Gradebook is available on ecampus where you can follow your grades. Check this frequently during the semester.

General Education: This course reinforces some of the Core Curriculum Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Board. **CRITICAL THINKING:** Critical thinking embraces methods of applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address and identified task. **COMMUNICATION:** To develop skills in oral, visual, and written communication.

Student Learning Outcomes: During this course you will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking skills by explaining and assessing strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position or theory.
2. Argue for informed answers to selected philosophical questions.
3. Research complex issues, synthesize data and present conclusions about issues.

Throughout the course you will find that an open mind that researches and listens is a key requirement for good discussion and analysis of issues.

Exams and Assignments: There are a number of assignments and tools used to measure student learning. These are:

- Quizzes: 250 points
- Movie Reflection Essay: 75 points
- Research assignments (2): 200 points
- A Thousand Splendid Suns - reflection essays: 225 points
- Final Exam: 100 points
- In class activities: 200 points

TOTAL: 1,050 points
Grading Scale  90 percent of total points possible will result in an A; 80% of the total will result in a B; 70% of the total possible will result in a C; 60% of total will result in a D. Below 60% = F

Withdrawal Policy  If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by November 15, 2012. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. See institutional policies for additional information on withdrawals.

Attendance Policy:  You are expected to attend regularly all classes in which you are enrolled.

You have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with your Instructor when an absence occurs. Roll will be taken each class period.

You are expected to be in class when the roll is taken and to remain for the entire class period. Excessive lateness or early departures will result in adjustments to the final grade average.

For each absence in excess of two days of class, deductions will be made at ever-increasing rates such as specified in the following example. The first 2 times that a student misses class no deduction is made. For each successive day absent, deductions are made as follows: on the 3rd absence, 2 points are deducted; on the 4th absence, 3 points are deducted; on the 5th absence, 4 points are deducted and so on thereby reducing the final average. Every late arrival after the first 2 also results in a one-point penalty reduction in the final grade.

Classroom Policies: All cell phones, pagers, palm pilots and other handheld devices, unless being demonstrably used to take class notes, must be turned off and out of sight. The Professor and other students find the interruptions provided by these external communication devices disruptive to the learning experience for all students. If a cell phone rings during class, this will be considered a disruption of the class and may lead to the offending student being dismissed from the remainder of class and marked as absent. If a student’s cell phone causes frequent or persistent disruptions, disciplinary actions listed in the student code of conduct will be considered.

Students disrupt the class with private conversations while other students or the Professor are speaking. They will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the session and be recorded as absent. The Instructor may ask any Student to leave the class when he/she is engaging in behavior disrupting the learning environment in the class.

Course Outline  There follows a general outline of topics considered in this course. For maximum success in this course you should spend a minimum of 9 hours per week working on course material.
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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN
Cedar Valley College's Quality Enhancement Plan is designed to improve student learning in mathematics. Read more about our QEP at: [www.cedarvalleycollege.edu/QEP](http://www.cedarvalleycollege.edu/QEP)

**Professor Biography:** I begin by helping you with pronunciation of my last name, the “c” is silent, and so it is pronounced like Tomzak. My experience as an Instructor at Cedar Valley College began in 1998. I also serve as an Adjunct Instructor at Dallas Baptist University. My Bachelors degree in Business is from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, which also makes me an avid fan of Florida State Seminole sports. The Bachelors degree led to a 25-year career in Banking and Finance, first with the Federal Reserve System and later with the largest banking organization in Florida. Next I gained a Masters of Divinity Degree and a Doctorate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. After 25 years in banking, I made a career change and became a Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Cedar Valley College. I live in Grapevine and besides being a sports fan enjoy gardening, swimming, and travel. I am an avid reader of mystery/suspense novels, historical fiction, classic novels and newspapers. I closely follow national and world events that affect our potential and opportunities do make a difference.
INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty      Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

ADA Statement         If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office at 972-860-8119.

Emergency Alert       Sign up for DCCCD Emergency Alerts to receive a text-message, e-mail and/or phone call when there is an unscheduled evacuation or closure of a DCCCD campus or office because of weather closures, utility outages, police or other emergencies. Subscribing is free, but standard text message charges from your cell phone provider will apply. Please refer to: http://www.dcccd.edu/current%20students/student%20services/emergalerts/Pages/default.aspx

Financial Aid         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.

Health Center Services Basic first aid for minor cuts, scrapes, insect stings, and heat, etc.

- Over-the-counter medications for headaches, fever, seasonal allergies, and colds
- Over-the-counter medications for mild allergic reactions
- Emergency sanitary pads
- Blood Pressure check
- Coordination with outside health agencies such as Carter Blood Care; Dallas County Health Dept. (HIV/STD testing--free, twice a semester); UT Southwestern mobile mammography; Immunizations once a month for children <19 y.o. from the DCDHHS; Agape Massage; and Employee Wellness Screening
- Rest area for stress relief, migraine headaches, post seizure activity
- AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for CPR
- Confidential "talks"
• Assists with health related club activities when asked and time permits

Honors Credit Availability

You can earn Honors Credit in this course that will show the completion of an Honors Course on your transcript. Honors credit is important in transfer evaluation for graduation with both Associates and Bachelor degrees with honors. To gain Honors credit for this course you will need to:

1. Demonstrate advanced writing skills through synthesis and original thought in expanded writing projects, research papers, and critical essays. This will entail a minimum of ten pages of writing. You will be asked to read primary sources readings besides the textbook
2. Participate in an outside class activity by attending a lecture, exhibit or program outside of the class activities
3. You will practice your oral presentation skills with a 10-minute presentation to the class about a topic that you have researched

To qualify for Honors credit, you must sign an Honors Contract at the beginning of the semester. Meet with me to design your program and complete the contract form by January 27 in order to meet the January 31 deadline for submission of Honors Contracts for approval. Finally, you must earn an A or B in the course in order to receive Honors Credit.

Religious Holidays

Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Repeating this Course

Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. This class may not be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the fall 2002 semester. More information is available at: https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oepthird_attempt.cfm

Student Code of Conduct

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1011/cattoc.cfm.
Note, in addition, that committing an act of academic dishonesty will result in failing this course regardless of the total points earned under the evaluation criteria.

Cheating includes: (1) copying from another student’s paper; (2) using unauthorized materials during a test; (3) collaborating with or seeking help from another student during a test or quiz or during the grading of a quiz; (3) collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test; (3) buying, selling, stealing or soliciting any part of or a whole test; (4) transporting or removing part of or a whole test before it is administered; and (5) other violations specified in the Student Code of Conduct.

Plagiarism is the appropriating, buying receiving as a gift or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own written work. Students must be CAUTIOUS when using material from books, magazine, or even the Internet to cite the source of information. On any essays, reports or research papers, the student MUST offer proper citations for information quoted or included from another printed or Internet source. Failure to do so is a violation of this policy and will result in failing the course.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Any collusion in preparation of essays or reports assigned for this class is a violation of this policy. Students are allowed to discuss their assignments and should freely do so. Copying, duplicating, or completing work for another student, however, is collusion and a violation of this policy.

The Student Code of Conduct is applicable to all activities related to this course.

Stop Before you Drop

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop.

You may drop no more than six courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions.

Remember that once you have accumulated six non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedops

Tutoring Services

We have a tutoring center for all students that you can access by appointment or even on a drop-in basis. Open times are posted at the Center in Building C on the second floor.

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.