Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy
Section 5420

GENERAL INFORMATION
College Name          El Centro College
Division              Arts & Sciences Division
Semester/Term & Year  Fall 2012

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Name                  Shamim Hunt
DCCCD E-mail          shunt@dcccd.edu
Address               
Office Hours          By Appointment Only

COURSE INFORMATION
Course Number          PHIL 1301
Section Number         5420
Credit Hours           3 Credit Hours
Course Title           Introduction to Philosophy
Course Description     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.
Course Prerequisites   Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.
                       Students are required to have demonstrated college-level reading, writing, and/or math skills prior to enrolling in academic transfer core courses.
Specific Course Learning Outcomes Students will demonstrate an understanding of both the nuances and the gist
of the philosophical positions presented in the texts. Students will exhibit analytical skill in uncovering and assessing implicit assumptions behind views and evaluating arguments presented for them. Students will acquire the ability to articulate and defend a philosophical position.

Evaluating this outcome:

The final grade will be determined by two tests, one writing assignment, and Discussion Board postings. The tests will consist of Multiple-Choice questions. Your tests will help me to know that you understand the basic tenet of philosopher and the different eras of the history of our Western Intellectual Tradition. The discussion Board postings is the most important part of your grade because it will provide an opportunity to formulate and articulate your views and you will learn to defend your own philosophical positions. You learn philosophy by doing philosophy.

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The course will investigate a variety of influential philosophical perspectives, from Thales to the present day, on topics of perennial interest in epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind. We will ponder the following questions, among others: What weight should be given to the roles of sense perception and abstract conceptual activity in our attempts to acquire knowledge of the world? Is certainty possible? Can we attain genuine knowledge of anything beyond Nature? Are there any valid proofs of the existence of God? What is the most reasonable attitude to take towards matters of faith? What, exactly, does it mean to have a mind? What sort of relation obtains between mental states or events and the physical dimension of our being? What sort of inquiry is philosophy?
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**ISBN for Textbook**

Gaarder: ISBN: 045152251
Thames: ISBN: 9780495477280

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**INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

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**Computer use Policy**

This class will require you to utilize campus computers. Please see the computer use policy for the district under the student code of conduct at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0809/ss/computer.cfm?loc=5

**Student Handbook**

The student handbook with additional information for students is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0809/ss/computer.cfm?loc=5 or http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/studentservices/spar/

Grading: Grading Scale: Discussions 40%, Midterm exam 20%, final exam 20%, The tests will consist of Multiple-Choice questions only. Term paper 20%: It will be minimum 3 pages and maximum 5 pages, double spaced Times New Romans, 12 font, 1 inch margin all sides. Note: You can access the first four chapters from the Sophie's World online from e-campus. This will keep you from falling behind in your readings until you get your books.

**Calendar**

August 27 Syllabus. Introduction to the course.


10  World. “Democritus,” “Fate.”  pp. 41-55

**Certification Day**


You can read Apology online:  
http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html

**November 15th, Last day to Withdraw (with W grade)**


You can read book VII on the following site:
http://www.constitution.org/pla/repub_07.htm


You can read the Metaphysics online
http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.4.iv.html


http://www.epicurus.net/en/principal.html

http://classics.mit.edu/Antoninus/meditations.4.four.html

26  Classical and Hellenistic Philosophy.
World: “Two Cultures.”  pp. 149-164.

You can read Book XI online
http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/110111.htm


You can read Aquinas online:
http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1002.htm

8 The Medieval World.

You can find it here:
From page 7

You can find it here on page 19


Reader: Descartes. Meditations on First Philosophy, #2. pp. 207-212.
You can find this here on page 4

15 **Midterm: Please see the Assignment Tab on Ecampus for Quiz**


You can find it here


**Discussion forums will close up to Descartes**


November 5

7
World: “Freud” pp. 429-446.

12
Read the preface here
http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/genealogypreface.htm
http://praxeology.net/twilight.htm

14

28

December 3

6
Final paper due: Please see the Assignment in E-Campus

December 7-12
Final Exam: See the Assignment Tab For Exam