Mountain View College
Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1301-6002
Fall 2012
August 27, 2012 – December 13, 2013

Professor: Debbie Nichols, MLA
Email: DNichols@DCCCD.edu
Office Phone Number: 214-860-8890
Office Number: W265
Office Hours: M 12:30-2:30, T/W/Th 12:30-1:30
Meeting Days & Time: T/Th 11:00-12:20
Room Number: W
Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours

Division: Communications and Social Sciences
Office Phone: 214.860.8830

Course Description:
An introduction to 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:
(1) DREA 0093 with a “C” or higher;
(2) ESOL 0044 with a “C” or higher;
(3) TSI approved Reading test score equivalent to exiting from (or being exempt from) DREA 0093; or
(4) a Reading required CORE course listed with a “C” or higher.

Course Materials/Supplies Needed:
All students are expected to obtain the use of a textbook.
2. Access to eCampus for online reading assignments. Student may use the campus computer lab.
3. 4 Scantron 882E forms, and a pencil for exams.
4. Students will also be assigned online reading.

State Requirements:
Intellectual Competencies:
This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Intellectual 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 12th grade level.
3. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.
Exemplary Educational Objectives:
This course satisfies the following Exemplary Education Objectives in Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

Course Objectives:
1. To equip students with the primary concepts and vocabulary of philosophy so that they can understand other academic subjects.
2. To help students think critically about their own worldviews and those of others.
3. To guide students through the history of ideas so they can better understand their present world.
4. To practice philosophical reading and wrestling with ideas and life’s big questions.
5. To enable students to participate in the Great Conversation.

Student Learning Outcomes:
After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:
• Identify selected philosophical positions and concepts.
• Apply critical thinking skills by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of philosophical positions or theories.
• Create an informed personal response to philosophical problems.

Course Outline:
1. Pre-Socratic and Athenian Philosophy
2. Hellenistic and Medieval Philosophy
3. Enlightenment and Modern Philosophy
4. The Road to Postmodernism

Evaluation Procedures:
1. FOUR EXAMS will be worth 100% of your total semester grade. The exams are objective and will cover material in lecture, discussion, texts, media, and online readings and will require Scantron 882E forms and a #2 pencil. Exams will be administered in class. No late exams are administered, and no one will be admitted to the exam once the session begins. Any student missing an exam will earn a 0 on the exam, but each student may choose to retake one of the first three exams, in the Testing Center prior to the due date in the syllabus. The higher of the two grades will be retained. No re-take opportunity exists for the fourth exam, which occurs on final exam day. No electronic devices are permitted during exams, and students must remove hats and sunglasses that obstruct the instructor’s view of students’ eyes. Students may be asked to sit in specific places during exams.
2. QUIZZES posted on eCampus are for study purposes only. They are not required and will not be graded but are excellent preparatory tools for exams.
3. EXTRA CREDIT SERVICE LEARNING, 25 points added to lowest exam: Students who successfully complete a Service Learning project will be given 25 points, added to the exam total before averaging. Students who complete a project but who do not attend a Reflection Meeting will earn 20 points. Enrollment must be done early in the semester. Please see Dr. Anne Grissom in W259 for information and enrollment in Service Learning projects. Fall and Spring only. This is the only form of extra credit expected to be available.
Instructor Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to attend class regularly and remain responsible for assignments due, material covered, and schedule changes announced in class while absent. Every absence beyond 25% of the course will cost the student's final grade 1% for non-participation—even if the absences are for school-sponsored activities. In this class, that would be an excess of 8 absences. Students absent for more than 25% of the semester should not expect to learn much, and may not pass the course.

Tardy students are responsible to report to the instructor after class so that they are not counted absent. Every three tardies will be counted as one absence on the students’ record. The instructor reserves the right to stop allowing late entrance to class if persistent tardiness becomes an interruption to class activities.

Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending, by the certification date. For this lecture course, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses.

Grading Scale:
FINAL GRADES will be assigned according to your work average as follows and will not be released by e-mail, telephone, or fax in order to protect students' privacy:
A = 90%-100%    B = 80%-89%    C = 70%-79%    D = 60%-69%    F = 0%-59%

Late Work Policy:
No late assignments or exams will be accepted.

Makeup Exam Policy:
Makeup exams are not given in this course, but early exams may be arranged in the Testing Center. Retests will not be administered, except for a single re-test of the student's choice on one of the first three unit exams. Save this re-take for an unavoidable absence and do your best on the first take of each exam. Use the online vocabulary lists and practice quizzes to prepare.

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 Thursday, November 15, 2012. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." Students often drop courses when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with your instructor if you feel the need to withdraw. 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.

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 6 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 6 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/6drop
Cell phones, electronic devices and pagers:
Students are expected to turn off all cell phones, electronic devices and pagers during class time. Any use of such during an exam will be considered cheating and will be subject to all appropriate penalties regarding academic dishonesty. **Laptop computers, tablets, and texting are not permitted in this class. No earphones or ear buds are permitted during class.** Students should not be attentive to their mobile phones during class. Checking an occasional text is an acceptable event, but students should not hold routine texting conversations during class. Students may leave the room to receive an emergency phone call, but that should not happen more than once or twice during a semester, at most. **STOP INTERRUPTING YOUR CLASSES WITH YOUR SOCIAL LIVES.**

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/cat0506/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm.

Financial Aid:
Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid **will not** be granted to students who have been certified as not attending by the certification date. For this lecture class, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date, will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses. 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.

If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. Additional information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/admiss/tsi_requirements.cfm.

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.

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/cat0406/ss/code.cfm.
ADA Statement:
Mountain View College and the Office of Special Services are committed to upholding the laws and the spirit of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed in 1990.

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.

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.

Inclement Weather Statement:
In the event of severe weather conditions, please listen to local radio or television stations for information concerning official closing of Mountain View College facilities. You can also call the inclement weather hotline at 214.860.8888, or check for updates on this web site. Decisions for evening classes will be made by 4:00 PM.

General College Practices:
  a. Treat your classmates and instructor as you would colleagues in a business. Follow adult, business-place etiquette.
  b. Print and use the syllabus. Consult the syllabus before asking questions.
  c. Access the class website early in the semester to become familiar with resources and assignments.
  d. Communicate with your instructors if you are absent for several class sessions.
  e. Keep track of your grades and average. Save graded work until you receive your final grade.
  f. Please do not bring children to class, even if it means you must miss class.
  g. Do not let your cell phone or laptop computer distract classmates. Computers should only be used for class-related tasks, and cell phones should be silenced during class. Texting and browsing the Internet are distracting, and therefore, rude. These activities are not permitted in this course, and earphones should not be used during any class.
  h. Debate ideas, not people. You should be able to disagree with classmates and instructors and still maintain respectful, productive relationships.
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<th>DATES/CLASS TOPICS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS DUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>08-28 Introduction</td>
<td>Get Syllabus online, Get Textbook</td>
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<td><strong>09-18 Exam #1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10-09 Exam #2</strong></td>
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<td>11-06 Film</td>
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<td>11-08 Film Conclusion</td>
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<td>11-13 Film Discussion and Chp. 6</td>
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<td>11-15 Chp. 6</td>
<td>Withdrawal Date</td>
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<td>Deadline for all exam re-takes (Exams 1-3)</td>
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<td>11-22 No Class; Be Thankful</td>
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<td><strong>12-11 Final Exam at 11:00 in class</strong></td>
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