INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 1301-9011
Fall 2012
08/27/12 – 12/13/12

Professor: Dr. Ann Farley-Parker
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Office Phone Number: none
Office Number: none
Office Hours: none; contact by email
Meeting Days & Time: online course
Room Number: online course
Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours

Division: Communications and Social Science
Division Office Phone: 214.860.8830

Course Description:
This course offers 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.

Of course, when we "do philosophy," we know that we are undertaking controversial topics—that is, there are almost no conclusive answers. On the other hand, as humans we must all—in some way—address the problems and questions that make up the subject matter of philosophy, “What is the origin of the universe?” “What is it to be human?” “Do we survive death?” “Are my actions really free?” “What can we really know?” “What is the ultimate nature of reality?” “How should we live our lives?” “What is the meaning of my life?”

This course will be conducted primarily as a reading and online discussion class; therefore, your active participation is required for successful completion of the course. We will consider a wide range of issues in philosophy. In addition to our own responses to these critical issues, we will consider the ideas of philosophers, and others who have given their attention to the important problems and issues in 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

You will be also assigned a variety of readings with various online links to assist you in finding the readings.
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:
1. Explain selected ontological, epistemological and axiological theories of notable western thinkers.
2. Argue for their own answers to selected, significant philosophical questions.
3. Identify connections between selected philosophical ideas and their cultural manifestations in politics, the arts, education, economics, or social problems.

Course Outline:

Week 1           Unit One—What is Philosophy?
Week 2 and 3     Unit Two—What’s Beyond Us?
Week 4 and 5     Unit Three—What’s in Us?
Week 6 and 7     Unit Four—Can We Really Think?
Week 8 and 9     Unit Five—Is It Really Your Choice?
Week 10 and 11   Unit Six—Do I Really Know?
Week 12 and 13   Unit Seven—What Should I Do?
Week 14          Unit Eight—What’s It All About?

Course Content:
Too often, I believe, we limit the way we think about learning. First, real learning is something we all love to do and have loved to do since we were babies. Learning is exciting and fun and that’s part of the reason we love it. We are fortunate to be able to use technology to assist us in our learning together. As for the
structured learning experiences that will lead to an evaluation of your work for this course, there are four main learning activities:

a) Writing Protocol/Study papers (each at least 1½ to 2 pages in length) in response to assigned readings in the course. (The protocol paper assignment can be viewed in “Assignments”—Unit One. You will also find a sample protocol to give you an idea of what is expected on these papers, which are designed primarily as a way for you to study and learn the material.);

b) Taking four examinations over material covered. The course is made up of 8 separate Units. Each examination covers two course units;

c) Writing a final paper (at least 5 pages in length);

d) Reading chapters, articles, essays, and course “lectures” on questions and problems in philosophy; and

e) Using the “Discussing Board” to interact with your professor and other students about ideas that emerge from the above activities.

Evaluation Procedures:

a) Protocol Papers—(6 separate grades) you will be provided with a simple protocol to follow in preparing these short papers as responses to what you have read. You will also be provided with a sample paper before the first assignment is due. There will be eight protocol papers assigned and each will be worth a total of 50 points. (Maximum of 300 points)

b) Examination—(4 separate grades) you will be given four examinations (including the final examination) during the course. Each examination will be worth a total of 100 points. (Maximum of 400 points)

c) Final Paper—(1 grade) you will be assigned to write a final paper (at least 5 pages in length). (Maximum 100 points)

d) Class Participation—(8 separate grades) as participation class “discussions” is an essential aspect of success in this course; you will receive a class participation grade that is based upon your contributions to the discussions on the Discussion Board. There will be 8 in-depth discussions during the course, so your participation in each discussion will be worth a maximum of 25 points. (Maximum of 200 points)

Instructor Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs. If for some reason you must leave class early, you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class of your reason for leaving early.

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:

Your final course grade will be determined on the following basis: You will earn numerical grades for your performance in each of the above learning activities. The maximum number of points that one could make is 1020.
Late Work Policy:
All assignments are due as assigned in the Course Schedule. No late work will be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the professor prior to the due date of the assignment. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up to date on all assignments listed in the syllabus as well as others assigned from time to time by the professor.

Makeup Exam Policy:
Makeup exams are not given in this course.

Withdrawal Policy (with drop date):
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.

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](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](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.