Syllabus for Philosophy 1301: Introduction to Philosophy

Course Description:
PHIL1301: Introduction to Philosophy. Section 2401 (9017)-INET
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 3801015112

Instructor:
Dr. Jerrod Scott
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Required Materials:
(Available at the Brookhaven College Bookstore or online at http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/DCCCD.HTM; one copy is on reserve at the Brookhaven Campus Library)

PHIL 1301 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 Educational Objectives in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

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. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.

Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO)

PHIL 1301, 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:

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.

PHIL 1301 Learning Outcomes

PHIL 1301 learning outcomes describe the goals for all PHIL 1301 courses at Brookhaven College. These outcomes address the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC) and the Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO) in the humanities and visual and performing arts.

Upon completion of PHIL 1301, students should be able to demonstrate competence in philosophy by:

I. Displaying knowledge of a variety of philosophical concepts by writing an essay in which they identify and show understanding of key philosophical concepts and definitions.
II. Applying critical thinking skills by writing an essay in which they explain and assess the strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position or theory.
III. Developing an informed personal reaction to a philosophical issue by writing an essay in which they explain and justify their personal response to a philosophical issue.

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

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 the withdraw date (see schedule below). 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.

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 or 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 courses 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 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 Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Dallas County Community Colleges Catalog.

https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm
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 product 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 of any kind will result in a “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.

Course 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?

Course Requirements:
I enjoy class debate. Your active participation will only help your level of comprehension. Thus, I have assigned several discussion topics, essays and exams. Your grade will be a factor of these 4 elements: quizzes, exams, essays and discussions boards.

1. Quizzes: After reading each chapter you will need to take a 10 question quiz. You can take the quiz twice (questions will not be the same), the higher of the two grades will be the official grade for the quiz. Note: there is a 15 minute time limit for each quiz. If you go over the time limit by more than 30 seconds, the grade will not count. Also, there is a firm deadline for each quiz, so you must stay up to date with the material. You will not be able to wait and take the quizzes at the end of the semester.

2. Exams: You will have two “Module” exams. The course is divided into two “modules.” The first module is chapters 1, 2, and 3 and the second module is chapters 4, 5, and 6. After finishing chapters 1, 2 and 3, you will be taking the first module exam over all three chapters in that module. Then, after completion of chapters 4, 5 and 6, you will be taking the second module exam. Each module exam will have 45 multiple choice and true/false questions and you will have 55 minutes to complete the exam. If you go over the time limit by more than 30 seconds, the grade will not count. Once you begin the exam, you will not be able to restart, go back or save. So, be sure you are prepared to finish the exam once you start. Also note that the quiz questions come from the same pool of questions as the module exams. So, you may see questions on the exams that you encountered on the quizzes.

3. Papers: 2 times in the semester I will give you a choice of two topics on which you must write a brief essay (approximately 1000 words). The point of these papers will be to focus on one particular argument or theory. The goal is not to do research (looking up stuff in the library) but to focus your thoughts on one argument or one position and dig deep. Your grade on these papers will be primarily based on the clarity of your writing, the command of the material and the “depth” of your explanations. (Which side of the
issue you are on is completely irrelevant). In fact, I will give you the grading rubric I will use to assess your essays. You should use this rubric as a guide to develop your outline. The dates I will assign these papers are marked in the schedule below. The topics for the first paper will come from the section in Module 1 labeled “possible essay topics.” The topics for the second paper will come from the section in Module 2 labeled “possible essay topics.” I will choose the topics that you will write on, but you should study these possible topics throughout the semester so you will be prepared to write your essay when the assignment is given.

4. Discussion Posts: You have 12 discussion topics throughout the semester. You must write a 300 word post in reply to the topic, and a 100 word reply to one other student’s posting for each topic. So, 12 times in the semester you need to have a total of 400 words worth of philosophical discussion. I will drop the two lowest discussion posts and replies, so only the best 10 will count. As you will see below, this is the major part of your grade, so be involved in the discussions! Note: there is a deadline on these discussion posts, so you cannot wait and do all your posts at the end of the semester. I will not accept late discussion posts or late replies. You must stay on top of things and post your comments as the semester goes along (see schedule below).

Grading:
Each quiz is worth 10 points, each exam is worth 45 points, each essay is worth 20 points and each discussion (with response) is worth 10 points (remember, I drop the lowest 2 discussion grades). There is also an introduction quiz covering the syllabus and introductory material, worth 10 points. Added all together, there are 300 points you could receive.
The final grade will be based on this scale:

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>270-300</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>240-269</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>210-239</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>180-209</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>179 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Make-Up Quizzes & Exams:
If you miss a deadline contact me immediately. Generally, I do not allow make-up exams, nor do I allow late work to be turned in.

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. 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 reports (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.

Schedule of Assignments & Deadlines:
The schedule that follows is a recommended timetable. You may proceed through the material faster if you wish. However, you cannot go slower. **The deadlines are firm. If you miss a deadline, you will lose the points for that assignment.** If you follow the schedule, you will move at a steady pace throughout the semester. Most assignments are open from the beginning of the semester. But, **once the deadline has passed, that assignment will no longer be accepted.** If you wish to move through the material faster than recommended, you should note that you only get one chance to take the module exams, and to turn in the essays. Once you turn in your essay, or once you begin an exam, there will not be a second chance. So, be sure you are ready **before** you start the exam or turn in an essay.
Deadline Assignment
(Assignments MUST be complete before midnight on the deadline. So, the orientation quiz is due by midnight on September 1st.)

9/1 Orientation Quiz (after reading the Syllabus)

MODULE 1
9/7 Discussion #1 (after finishing Chapter 1)
9/8 Reply to Discussion 1 & Chapter 1 Quiz

9/14 Discussion #2 (after reading 2.1)
9/15 Reply to Discussion #2

9/21 Discussion #3 (after reading 2.5)
9/22 Reply to Discussion #3 and Chapter 2 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 2)

9/28 Discussion #4 (after reading 3.1)
9/29 Reply to Discussion #4

10/5 Discussion #5 (after reading 3.3. Also, essay #1 topics selected by instructor)
10/6 Reply to Discussion #5 and Chapter 3 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 3)

10/12 ESSAY #1 due and Module #1 Exam due

MODULE 2
10/19 Discussion #6 (after reading 4.2)
10/20 Reply to Discussion #6

10/26 Discussion #7 (after reading 4.3)
10/27 Reply to Discussion #7 and Chapter 4 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 4)

11/2 Discussion #8 (after reading 5.1)
11/3 Reply to Discussion #8

11/9 Discussion #9 (after reading 5.2)
11/10 Reply to Discussion #9

11/16 Discussion #10 (after reading 5.4)
11/17 Reply to Discussion #10 and Chapter 5 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 5)

11/23 Discussion #11 (after reading 6.1)
11/24 Reply to Discussion #11

11/30 Discussion #12 (after reading 6.3. Also, essay #2 topics selected by instructor)
12/1 Reply to Discussion #12 and Chapter 6 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 6)

12/7 ESSAY #2 due and Module #2 Exam due