COURSE SYLLABUS
Dr. Michele Svatos, Phil 2307 Social & Political Philosophy
Fall 2012 Online
Eastfield College
Social Science, Human Services & Business Division

Instructor & contact information: Dr. Michele Svatos
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Office hours: TBA on eCampus. I mostly work from home, and my office hours are held online.

Required Text:
Students will be assigned readings and research on the internet. There is no textbook and no charge for accessing readings. You will be reading both primary and secondary sources. Many of the primary sources (which we’ll read excerpts from) are widely available in any library and used or new bookstores (often quite cheaply) if you would like hardcopies of some of the readings.

Course Description:
PHIL 2307 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy (3) This is a Texas Common Course Number. The relationships of philosophical ideas to the community are presented. Emphasis is on concepts of natural rights, justice, education, freedom, and responsibility. (3 Lec.) Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015412

Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Goals:
- Introduce major philosophers and philosophical controversies in social & political philosophy
- Develop some familiarity with the philosophical writings on which they are based
- Foster a lifelong appreciation for philosophical thinking

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will be able to:
- Identify the major theories in social & political philosophy and the philosophers who hold them.
- Discuss philosophical issues using critical thinking skills and reasoned judgments
- Correctly apply philosophical theories to various issues
- Provide objections and responses to various views and theories in social & political philosophy

Structure:
Students will complete 2 topical units (or sections) on social & political philosophy, each with its own online reading assignments, practice quiz, test, outline, and paper. Section 1 covers the philosophical foundation of government and limits of political obligation. Section 2 covers justice, liberty, and role of the economic system. There will also be EITHER a
final exam or else an honors project. For the honors project, you will have the choice of several options on different topics, each requiring a paper.

All assignments are submitted online. You never need to come to campus. You do not need to be online at any particular time or on any particular day; you just need to observe the deadline for each section's assignments. Students may prepare for the papers and tests by going through the material available on eCampus and doing the required readings, as well as through dialogue with the instructor and other students on the Discussion Board. You will have primary readings (original historical texts) as well as secondary readings and your online written “lectures” to help you understand the original texts and to provide an historical context to the philosophical ideas. Additional optional readings are also suggested if you need additional help or would like to do more in-depth study of some topics. Discussion is not required or graded. There is no textbook; all readings are available for free on the internet.

Requirements:
As a largely self-paced course, students are mostly free to organize their time as they see fit. You may complete the course as quickly as you like. There are a number of deadlines, however; see the deadlines button.

- If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date. See the deadlines button.
- There are 2 sections, each with 1 essay worth 100 pts. Sections 1 and 2 have a practice quiz and test. Each test is worth 80 pts. The quizzes are just for practice. There is an outline worth 20 pts required for sections 1 and 2.
- There is also EITHER a final exam (for regular credit) or an honors project. Not both. Your choice. You can earn honors credit for the course by doing the honors project instead of the final exam, provided that you have high enough grades; see details below. You can earn an honors A, honors B, or honors C for the course. There is no honors D. You can also earn a regular grade of A, B, C, or D if you do not do the honors project or do not qualify for the honors project due to low grades on some of the papers.
- You may complete the course as quickly as you like, but must take each section in order.
- **There are deadlines for the assignments in each of the sections or units.** See the deadlines button.
- If you need a deadline extension, you must email me at least a business day in advance to request it.
- All work must be done through eCampus. Emailed papers will not be accepted.

Grading:
There are section 2 tests, worth 80 pts each; 2 outlines, worth 20 pts each; and 2 section papers, worth 100 pts each. There is also either a final exam or honors project, worth 100 pts. Practice quizzes are available but do not count toward the course grade. I do not round grades; you need at least 90.0% for an A, and so on.
Section 1: 20 pt outline + 80 pt test + 100 pt essay = 200 pts
Section 2: 20 pt outline + 80 pt test + 100 pt essay = 200 pts
Final exam OR honors project of 100 pts = 100 pts

**Grade scale:** 500 points total
- Honors A = 450-500 points with honors project (no final exam) + meets grade requirements*
- Regular A = 450-500 points with final exam instead of honors project
- Honors B = 400-449 points with honors project (no final exam) + meets grade requirements*
- Regular B = 400-449 points with final exam instead of honors project
- Honors C = 350-399 points with honors project (no final exam) + meets grade requirements*
- Regular C = 350-399 points with final exam instead of honors project
- D = 300-349 points (not enough points for any honors credit)
- F = 0 - 299 points

**This class is available for regular credit, or for honors credit. The honors option is designed as a challenge for the best students. You may choose either.** If you want to earn honors credit, you will need to do an honors project, which will involve a 3rd paper (as well as additional reading) instead of the final exam. Honors credit will be reflected on your transcript if you successfully complete the course, including the honors project, as described here.

**Grade requirements** means this: You must earn a grade of at least C (70%) on all your regular papers and your honors paper to earn any kind of honors credit. If you attempt honors credit but do not earn a minimum of 70% on all papers, you will earn regular credit, not honors credit. An honors final grade may be an A, B or C; however, an honors grade of C is not likely to be as helpful on your transcript. The honors project is NOT extra credit. A grade of less than 70% on the honors project will be considered as a failed honors project; this does not mean that you failed the class, but the paper will be ignored and will not count as extra credit. You will have to take the final exam. It would be as though you never attempted the honors option. You will only earn honors credit for the course if you successfully complete all the requirements for the honors option. Otherwise, this will not be listed as an honors class on your transcript. See the Honors Option button in the online classroom for more details.

**Academic Honesty Statement:**
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 at [http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm](http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm)

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion. **Cheating** includes copying from another student’s test or homework paper, using materials not authorized, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an unadministered test, and substituting for another person to take a
test. **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. **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in college. You can be given a failing grade on an assignment or test, can be failed for the class, or you can even be suspended from college.

In this course, any instance of academic dishonesty will result in, at best, a grade of 0 for the assignment. While such instance may result in a course grade of F, additional academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of F. **Flagrant plagiarism may result in a 10% reduction in your final course grade, along with a zero for the assignment.** **Flagrant plagiarism includes using an essays for sale or free essays site, or turning in someone else's paper as your own.** If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, see the term paper instructions, the Student Handbook at www.dcccd.edu and/or ask me for clarification.

**ADA Statement:**
Students with a physical, mental or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the college Disability Services Office in C237. Call 972.860.8348 or email efcdso@dcccd.edu. For more information: [http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html](http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html)

**Religious Holidays:**
Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. Notification of the absence must be given to the instructor in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the holy day. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within at a mutually agreed upon time after the absence.

**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 date listed in your online classroom under the Deadlines button. 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. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Registrar's Office at 972-860-7167 (Room C119), or contact the division office.

**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/coursedrops](https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops)

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA):**
In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College may release information classified as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone numbers, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently attended, and (9) other similar information, including major field of student and degrees and awards received. Students may protect their directory information at any time during the academic year. If no request is filed, directory information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged. No transcript or academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as specified by law.

**ADA Statement:**
Students with a physical, mental or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the college Disability Services Office in C237. Call 972.860.8348 or email efcdso@dcccd.edu. For more information: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html

Obtaining Final Course Grades Using eConnect:
Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions Office.

Eastfield College Email Policy:
Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. For information on setting up a DCCCD student email account go to: http://www.dcccd.edu/netmail/home.html

Financial Aid Statement:
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.

Financial Aid Statement for Distance Learning Classes:
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. 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.

Repeating This Course: (Third Attempt to Enroll in a 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. 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. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at: http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/

Objectives and Competencies

Philosophy 2307 is a part of the Core Curriculum and addresses the following Exemplary Educational Objectives and Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies as set forth below by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

Exemplary Educational Objectives in Social and Behavioral Sciences
The objective of a social and behavioral science component of a core curriculum is to increase student’s knowledge of how social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity. Therefore, the exemplary educational objectives for this class are:

1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the areas under study.
6. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.
7. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
8. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
9. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
10. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
11. To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
12. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

**Exemplary Educational Objectives in Philosophy**
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.

**Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies**
1. Reading—the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials (books, documents, and articles)—above 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. Speaking—the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience—above 12th grade level.
4. Listening—analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading—above 12th grade level.
5. Critical Thinking—think and analyze at a critical level.

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