Phil 1301: Introduction to Philosophy: Section 53250; 3 credits, Spring 2014
El Centro College; Arts & Sciences Division
Instructor: Shamim Hunt; E-mail Address: shunt@dccc.edu

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.

Course objectives:
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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?

Course Outline: El Centro wants this course to improve your intellectual competencies. So, in this course, you will read Sophie's World and the Reader to expose yourself to the primary texts. We will learn important philosophical important concepts, such as: metaphysics, free will, predestination, reality, sureality, God, cause and effect, nature, cosmos, and even space, and critically examine the implications of such ideas. The main objective of this course is to introduce you to the history and of evolution of such ideas from Pre-Socrates to our current era, and how these ideas have influenced and shape our culture, politics, and our way of thinking. We will learn to think not only as being part of the
world, but also as being other than the world. The observer of the world.

**Plagiarism Warning:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in course failure.

**Quiz and paper make ups:** Since the quizzes are online you will have a week to take the quizzes. So, there cannot be any excuse not to take the exam. Final exam date will not be extended.

If I make any changes to the syllabus, I will post an announcement on ecampus.

**Books:**


**Evaluation Procedures:** Grading: The final grade will be determined by two tests each worth 15% of the final grade. That is 30% of your grade will come from these two tests. The tests will consist of Multiple-Choice and T/F questions only.

The other 70% of your grade will depend on the Discussion Board postings on all the chapter forums of your choice. Each forum is worth 4 points. You will do 25 out of 30 forums.

Note: You can access the first four chapters from the Sophie's World online from e-campus so you can start reading and posting your answers right away before the forum closes. The forums open and close dates are based on the calendar below. Follow the calendar to keep up with these daily assignments. Of course, you cannot pass this course if you do not write your comments on your forums.

Quizzes 30%: A midterm Quiz, and a final exam, each worth 15%.

Participation: 70% on discussion board.

Extra credit: You can do the rest of the five forums for 1 point each, the total of 5 points.

**Attendance Policy**
Please read the assigned readings for the day. You will be expected to participate in class discussions according to the Class Calendar. If you do not participate, you cannot pass this course.

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

Room A110; 214.860.2411; 5dso@dcccd.edu

**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 if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student notified the instructor of each class scheduled on the date that the student would be absent for a religious holy day. A “religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section 11.20, Tax Code. The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered by the student personally to the instructor, with receipt acknowledged and dated by the instructor or by certify mail, return requested, addressed to the instructor. A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination.

**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
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 (semester’s drop date). 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.

**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 six 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 six 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 information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

**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/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm.

**Financial Aid:** 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.

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

**CLASS POLICIES:** Everyone will be expected to respect each other when discussing views. No name calling or profanities will be tolerated.

**E-connect** is the web interface that provides online student services which allow students to search, register, and pay for credit classes, view final grades and financial aid status. Go to https://econnect.dcccd.edu/eConnect You must have an e-mail address on file with the college to access e-Connect. You may use a DCCCD e-mail address, which is free if you are eligible, or you may use a commercial e-mail address. If you have a question contact eConnect@DCCCD.Edu

**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/

Class calendar
Spring Academic Semester, 2014

January 2 (R)  College Buildings and Offices Open
January 13 (M)  Faculty Reports
January 16-17 (R, F)  eCampus Maintenance Time
January 20 (M)  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
January 21 (T)  Classes Begin
February 3 (M)  12th Class Day
February 6 (R)  Employee Development Day- day and evening classes will not meet.
February 7 (F)  Employee Development Day/Day of Service- Friday day classes will not meet. Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday classes will meet.
February 10 (M)  Classes Resume
March 10-14 (M-F)  Spring Break- College buildings & offices will be closed for the week.
March 17 (M)  Classes Resume
April 17 (R)  Last Day to Withdraw
April 18 (F)  Holiday Begins
April 21 (M)  Classes Resume
May 12-15 (M-R)  Final Exams
May 15 (R)  Semester Ends
May 19 (M)  Last Day for faculty to submit grades electronically through eConnect to the Registrar's Office

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Class Calendar

January 24  Syllabus. Introduction to the course.


February 3  class certification of attendance day.

February 7  Employee Development Day. Friday day classes will not meet.

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

    Reader: Plato, Republic, Book VII.,
    You can read book VII on the following site:
    http://www.constitution.org/pla/repub_07.htm

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

March 7  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

The Medieval World.

You can find it here: http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdfbits/bacno11.pdf
From page 7

March 10-14 (M-F) Spring Break- College buildings & offices will be closed for the week.

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

Midterm Exam

You can find it here


April 17 (R)  Last Day to Withdraw

April 18  Holiday Begins

    World: “Freud”  pp. 429-446.

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

May 10-14  Final Exam: See the Assignment Tab For Exam
Exam will close on the 14th at 8PM.
All discussion Forums will close at on the 14th at 11:59 pm.