Syllabus for Philosophy 1301: Introduction to Philosophy
Brookhaven College
Social Science
Spring 2015

Course Description:
PHIL1301: Introduction to Philosophy. Sections 23402 and 93406 (Internet course)
A study of major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy.
Topics in philosophy may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their
practical applications. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 38.0101.51 12
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the
Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Instructor:
Dr. Jerrod Scott
(Office) K205
(Office Phone) 972.860.4826
(email) jscott@dcccd.edu

Required Materials:
• Schick, Jr. and Vaughn. Doing Philosophy: An Introduction Through Thought Experiments. 5th
  (Available at the Bookstore; one copy is on reserve at the Brookhaven Library)

Course Objectives & 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?

PHIL 1301 is included in the DCCCD Core Curriculum. This course provides students with the
opportunity to develop the Core Curriculum Objectives of communication, personal responsibility, social
responsibility and critical thinking fundamental to all DCCCD Core Curriculum courses.

Core Curriculum Objectives
PHIL 1301 satisfies the following Core Objectives defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
Board:

Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and
synthesis of information.

Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through
written, oral and visual communication.

Social Responsibility: - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the
ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical
decision-making.
PHIL 1301 Learning Outcomes
PHIL 1301 learning outcomes describe the goals for all PHIL 1301 courses at Brookhaven College. These outcomes address the Core Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

Attendance Policy:
I do not count attendance as part of your grade.

Absence due to Religious Holy Days:
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.

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. 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 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.

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/cat1112/ss/oep/dw.cfm

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/catalog/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 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, 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, 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).

Each discussion prompt is directed at a specific topic and comes with a specific section of your text listed next to it. Your post should be written after you have read the recommended section, and all preceding sections. I will expect your post to reflect the knowledge gained in your readings, and to show critical thought by reflecting on the assumptions and implications of your beliefs. The way I grade these posts and replies is detailed in the “grading rubrics” tab in your ecampus materials.

**Grading:**
Each quiz is worth 10 points, each exam is worth 45 points, each essay is worth 20 points and each discussion (with reply) 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:

- 270-300= A
- 240-269=B
- 210-239=C
- 180-209=D
- 179 and below= F

**Make-Up Quizzes & Exams:**
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](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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>(Assignments MUST be complete before 11pm on the deadline. So, the “Orientation Quiz” is due by 11:00pm on January 30th. I will not accept late work.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Orientation Quiz (after reading the Syllabus)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MODULE 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Discussion #1 (after finishing Chapter 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion 1 &amp; Chapter 1 Quiz</td>
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<td>2/13</td>
<td>Discussion #2 (after reading 2.1)</td>
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<td>2/14</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #2</td>
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<td>2/20</td>
<td>Discussion #3 (after reading 2.5)</td>
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<td>2/21</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #3 and Chapter 2 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>2/27</td>
<td>Discussion #4 (after reading 3.1)</td>
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<td>2/28</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Discussion #5 (after reading 3.3. Also, essay #1 topics selected by instructor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #5 and Chapter 3 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>3/12</td>
<td>ESSAY #1 due and Module #1 Exam due</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>MODULE 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Discussion #6 (after reading 4.2)</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #6</td>
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<td>3/27</td>
<td>Discussion #7 (after reading 4.3)</td>
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<td>3/28</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #7 and Chapter 4 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>4/3</td>
<td>Discussion #8 (after reading 5.1)</td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #8</td>
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<td>4/10</td>
<td>Discussion #9 (after reading 5.2)</td>
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<td>4/11</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #9</td>
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<td>4/17</td>
<td>Discussion #10 (after reading 5.4)</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #10 and Chapter 5 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>Discussion #11 (after reading 6.1)</td>
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<td>4/25</td>
<td>Reply to Discussion #11</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Discussion #12 (after reading 6.3. Also, essay #2 topics selected by instructor)</td>
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5/2..........................Reply to Discussion #12 and Chapter 6 Quiz (after finishing Chapter 6)

5/7..........................ESSAY #2 due and Module #2 Exam due