INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY  
PHIL 1301-62400  
Winter Term 2015-2016  
December 21, 2012 – January 8, 2015

Professor: Debbie Nichols  
Email: DNichols@dcccd.edu  
Office Phone Number: 214-860-8890  
Office Number: W265  
Office Hours: online course; 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:  
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.

Course Pre-requisites: TSI approved Reading test score

Course Materials/Supplies Needed  
You will be also assigned a variety of readings with online links to assist you in finding the readings.

Core Objectives:  
This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.  
1. Critical Thinking Skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.  
2. Communication Skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication.  
3. Social Responsibility—to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.  
4. Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes  
After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:  
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 orally or 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.

Course Outline:

Unit One—What is Philosophy?
Unit Two—What’s Beyond Us?
Unit Three—What’s in Us?
Unit Four—Can We Really Think?
Unit Five—Is It Really Your Choice?
Unit Six—Do I Really Know?
Unit Seven—What Should I Do?
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 three main learning activities for our short semester:

a) Reading chapters, articles, essays, and course “lectures” on questions and problems in philosophy;
b) Taking four examinations over material covered. The course is made up of 8 separate Units. Each examination covers two course units
c) Using the “Discussing Board” to interact with your professor and other students about ideas that emerge from the above activities.

Evaluation Procedures:

a) Examination—(4 separate grades) you will be given four examinations during the course. The total exam average will be worth 100% of your semester grade.
b) Participation in Discussion—The Discussion Board will be open all semester, with thoughtful discussion topics provided. Because our semester is only eight days long, the Discussion Board will not be mandatory, and will not be graded, this Winter semester. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to participate in order to test their understandings before taking exams, and in order to apply their thinking to new knowledge. The only mandatory posting will be your introduction on the first day of class.

Instructor Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes, which means, in the case of online courses, participation in activities as scheduled. If you are absent from discussion or activities, please communicate with the instructor. Late assignments are not accepted, so if you will be gone or occupied during some portion of the course, please work ahead.

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 online course, introducing yourself on the Discussion Board 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. Attendance in online classes means posting an introduction to the Discussion Board on schedule.
Grading Scale:
FINAL GRADES will be assigned according to your work average as follows and will not be released by e-mail, telephone, or fax in order to protect students’ privacy:

A = 90%-100%  
B = 80%-89%  
C = 70% -79%  
D = 60%-69%  
F = 0%-59%

Late Work Policy:
All assignments are due as assigned in the Course Schedule. No late work will be accepted unless special 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 any others assigned by the professor. Again, if you will be gone or occupied during some portion of the course, please work ahead.

Makeup Exam Policy:
Makeup exams are not given in this course. Work ahead if you will be gone or busy during the holidays.

The withdraw date for this class is January 4, 2016.

Academic Dishonesty:
Students that caught plagiarizing an assignment will be subject to an “F” in the course and possible expulsion from the college. Note that instructors ARE aware of sites that sell papers, test answers, etc. We routinely monitor those sites, and we put papers through plagiarism-checking software. Mature adults do not get to steal other people’s work in the professional world, so we suggest that you begin now to practice doing your own work, and representing yourself accurately.

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/catalog/ss/code.cfm.

Institution Policies: Please visit http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/Academics/Documents/Institutional%20Policies.pdf for a complete list of institutional policies (Stop Before You Drop; Withdrawal Policy; Repeating a Course; Financial Aid; Academic Dishonesty; Americans with Disabilities Act Statement; Religious Holidays; and Campus Emergency Operation Plan and Contingency Plan.).

General College Practices:
   a. Treat your classmates and instructor as you would colleagues in a business. Follow adult, business-place etiquette.
   b. Print and use the syllabus and schedule. Consult the syllabus before asking questions.
   c. Access the class website early in the semester to become familiar with resources and assignments.
   d. Communicate with your instructors if you are absent from online activity and get behind.
   e. Keep track of your grades and average. Save graded work until you receive your final grade.
   f. Debate ideas, not people. You should be able to disagree with classmates and instructors and still maintain respectful, productive relationships. Conversation on the discussion board should be polite and respectful, even when we disagree.

Course Calendar: See next page.
Schedule of Class Activities, Winter 2015-2016  
PHIL 1301 Online Course  
December 21, 2015 – January 8 2016  
Mountain View College, Professor D. Nichols

Each date is a deadline. Work may be submitted any time prior to the deadline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Deadline Dates</th>
<th>Deadline Time</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1-2  | Monday, December 21     | 11:59 PM      | Get textbook immediately  
Read Orientation  
Listen to Orientation Slides  
Read Syllabus  
Explore website  
**Post your Introduction to the introductory Discussion Board**  
Start working on Section 1 |
| 1    | 3-4  | Wednesday, December 23  | 11:59 PM      | Section 1 Reading, Units 1-2, Chapters 1-3  
**Exam #1** |
| 2    | 3-4  | Thursday, December 24 – Sunday January 3 | 11:59 PM | Holidays. Campus is closed.  
Cyberspace is open. The course is open.  
I encourage you to work ahead as you are able. |
| 2    | 3-4  | Monday, January 4       | 11:59 PM      | Section 2 Reading, Units 3-4, Chapters 4-7  
**Exam #2**  
Deadline to Withdraw with a “W” grade |
| 3    | 5-6  | Wednesday January 6     | 11:59 PM      | Section 3 Reading, Units 5-6, Chapters 8-10  
**Exam #3** |
| 4    | 7-8  | Friday January 8        | 11:59 PM      | Section 4 Reading, Units 7-8, Chapters 11-13  
**Exam #4** |