Syllabus for Philosophy 1301: Introduction to Philosophy  
Spring 2018  
Dr. Jerrod Scott

Course Description:
PHIL1301: Introduction to Philosophy. Section 22401  
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.)

Instructor:
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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)

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.

All college and district policies can be read at: [https://www.Brookhavencollege.edu/syllabusaddendum](https://www.Brookhavencollege.edu/syllabusaddendum)

**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 5 question quiz. 
   Note: there is an 8 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 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. **Paper:** At the end of 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 this paper 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 this paper 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 topics will come from the list of possible essay topics found in each module. 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 7 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, 7 times in the semester you need to have a total of 400 words worth of philosophical discussion. 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 5 points, each exam is worth 45 points, the essay is worth 20 points and each discussion (with response) is worth 10 points. There is also an introduction quiz covering the syllabus and introductory material, worth 5 points. Added all together, there are 215 points you could receive. The final grade will be based on this scale:

- 193-215 = A
- 171-192 = B
- 150-170 = C
- 128-149 = D
- 127 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.

December 22 is the drop date.

Schedule of Readings & 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. For each deadline, after 11pm on the date given, the assignment will no longer be accepted. If you wish to move through the material faster than recommended, 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.

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<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Orientation Quiz (after reading the Syllabus), at or before 11pm</td>
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**MODULE 1**

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<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>Discussion #1 (after finishing Chapter 1) &amp; Reply to Discussion 1 &amp; Chapter 1 Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Discussion #2 (after finishing chapter 2) &amp; Reply to Discussion #2 and Chapter 2 quiz</td>
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<td>12/21</td>
<td>Discussion #3 (after finishing chapter 3) &amp; Reply to Discussion #3 and Chapter 3 Quiz</td>
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12/22...............................Module #1 Exam due, at or before 11pm

MODULE 2
12/26...............................Discussion #4 (after finishing chapter 4) &
Reply to Discussion #4 and Chapter 4 quiz

12/27...............................Discussion #5 (after finishing 5.1) &
Reply to Discussion #5

12/30...............................Discussion #6 (after finishing chapter 5) &
Reply to Discussion #6 and Chapter 5 quiz

1/3.................................Discussion #7 (after finishing chapter 6) &
Reply to Discussion #7 and Chapter 6 quiz

1/4.................................ESSAY due and Module #2 Exam due, at or before 11pm