

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2015

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| CONTACT INFORMATION: | Professor \_\_Dr. Andrew Alexander\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  West Campus Building \_\_5\_\_\_, Room \_\_5259\_\_\_\_\_  Phone: 407-582-\_1473\_\_\_\_  Email: \_\_aalexander@valenciacollege.edu\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Office Hours: See documentation in Faculty Front Door | |
| COURSE TITLE: | PHILOSOPHY PHI 2010, W02 | |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION: | Contemporary problems are used to introduce the major areas of philosophy: metaphysics, ethics, politics, theories of knowledge and the philosophy of religion. Students explore the ideas of notable philosophers, past and present, and examine how their ideas have shed light on these problems and their relevance to modern life. | |
| PREREQUISITE: | None | |
| TERM: | Spring Semester-January 12 to April 24, 2015  Final Exam Week April 27 to May 1, 2015. | |
| CREDIT HOURS:  CRN:  REQUIRED TEXTS: | 3 credit hours  20834    Alexander, Andrew, Philosophizing  ISBN 978-7575-8140-3    Index cards are required. | |
| IMPORTANT DATES: | ML King Day: Jan. 19, Holiday  Spring Break: March 9-13 classes are canceled.  Final Exam: Apr. 29 | |
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| COURSE FORMAT & METHOD OF INSTRUCTION  Electronic Devices in class | | The course will be taught through a combination of lecture, hands-on classroom exercises and homework assignments. Students should not assume that there will be class time to complete homework assignments. Required readings, assignments and other activities will be provided. Spring Full Semester begins January 12, 2015  **Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.** |

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| MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES. | | 1. Students will be able to question basic beliefs. 2. Students will be able to check the assumptions and implications of key ideas. 3. Students will be able to explore diverse theories or perspectives 4. Students will be able to define concepts with necessary and sufficient criteria. 5. Students will be able to articulate objections and construct arguments. | | |
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| INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: | | Project will be available on Faculty Front Door. | | |
| GRADING SCALE: | | The following grading scale is used:  A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60    The course consists of four units:   1. The Nature of Philosophy & Ethics 2. Political Philosophy 3. Metaphysics & Epistemology 4. The Philosophy of Religion   A unit test comes at the end of each unit. A group project comes in the middle of the fourth unit. The grading system is as follows:   1. Two Regular Unit Tests = 18% each 2. A Take-Home Essay = 18% (Unit 2) 3. A Final Test = 18% (Unit 4) 4. A Group Project = 18% 5. Class Participation = 5% 6. Attendance = 5%   The final exam is as follows:  (W02), 10AM- 12:30 PM, 4/29 1-234  Missing the final exam will result in a grade of F, until the student takes a make-up final with special permission. | | |
| COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: | | * Complete reading assignments .   **Participate and contribute to all learning activities - Actively participate in all work, learning and discussions (including completing readings prior to discussions) related to learning activities.**   * **Be a positive student and teammate –- Conduct yourself in a professional and scholarly way that will enable peers and faculty to perceive you as a positive role model.** | | |
| ATTENDANCE POLICY & NO SHOW PROCEDURES: | | If you must miss a class or activity or are late it will impact your grade. Classroom and activity attendance and punctuality is vital to academic success. Excused absences will be allowed in accordance with Valencia’s official policies.  You must attend class all semester, be on time and submit the assignments on the due dates to meet the attendance requirement.  Attendance counts for 5% of the grade. It will be based on the following scale:  ATTENDANCE:  # Absences grade  0 A  1 B  2 C  3 D etc. | | |
| WITHDRAWAL POLICY: | | Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W”.  A student may withdraw at any time during the term in Atlas. The New Withdrawal Policy has been implemented. Here’s what you need to know about the new Withdrawal Policy:  ·         Students may withdraw themselves for a W up until the withdrawal deadline- 3/27/15.  ·         After the withdrawal deadline each semester, students can no longer withdraw themselves.  ·         WP and WF have been deleted from Withdrawal procedures.  ·         Before the withdrawal deadline, both a student and faculty may withdraw the student.  ·         After the withdrawal deadline, a student cannot withdraw him-/herself.  Excessive absences/ Lateness of fifteen minutes or early departure will count as a missed hour . . A professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission. (2002-03 College Catalog p.62) Do not leave early without informing me. This is disruptive and rude.  Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful of the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited:  . Rude or disrespectful behavior;  . Unwarranted interruptions;  . Failure to adhere to instructor’s directions;  . Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation;  . Physically or verbally abusive behavior.  Student’s behavior that is inappropriate will result in disenrollment from the course.  Any student knowing he / she is not passing the course but fails to withdraw by March 27,2015 and decides to stop coming to class should know the professor will not withdraw him /her from the course. A grade of F will be assigned. | | |
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| MAKE-UP POLICY:  **CLASS PARTICIPATION** | Exams and Final Exam cannot be made up. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.  Tests not done in class must be taken in the testing center, only under special circumstances, according to policies of the college. All tests in the testing center must be completed before the week of final exams.  Extra credit is not given. To improve your grade, focus on maximizing your score on the exams & project.  Participation in class involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:  • Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities.  • Your cooperation during group and pair work.  • Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.  • Your daily preparation for each class.  • Your instructor may assign written homework that will be collected and graded; these assignments form part of your participation grade  Participation does not mean interrupting the class, leaving the room and coming back, and/or just asking questions.  CLASS PARTICIPATION:  A (90-100) Student prepares for the lesson, volunteers answers,  responds correctly.  B (89-80) Student responds when called upon; answers are generally  correct.  C (79-70) Student has some problems with the subject, but makes an  effort to be prepared, understand, and respond.  D (69-60) Student does not respond correctly, is not prepared for  class, does not have materials ready, and is absent  frequently.  F (59-0) Student can’t answer questions, does other things not  concerning class, and is absent most of the time. | | |
| ACADEMIC HONESTY:  Student Conduct and Academic Honesty: | Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student’s individual thoughts, research, and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states “group project.” Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.  VC Expected student conduct: 10-03 Student Code of Conduct   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Specific Authority: | 1006.60, FS. | | Law Implemented: | 1006.60, FS. |   Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules of appropriate behavior as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Faculty may direct students who engage in inappropriate behavior that results in disruption of a class to leave the class.  Such students may be subject to other disciplinary action which may include a warning, withdrawal from class, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college.  Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.  Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct website: <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policies/policydetail2.cfm?PolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3>  Exams and homework are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit.  Students may collaborate in group assignments. Collaboration should be used to edit or to clarify doubts. If anyone is involved in incidents of cheating a zero will be given. Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on ***Academic Honesty*** as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. Any student(s) cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the exam. This cannot be replaced with the final score and the professor at his/her discretion can withdraw you from the class.  Students are responsible for preparing for class by reading pre-assigned readings and completing assignments.  Students who are absent are fully responsible for all material covered in class. Leaving a message on my phone or sending an e-mail will not be an excused absence. Make sure you can contact your classmates too.  Students should bring the textbook and any other material required for class.  During exams and quizzes, students may not leave the room.  The instructor’s office extension is \_\_\_\_\_\_. Messages should consist of your name, your class and class time, and a brief message. Questions such as “What did we cover in class?” will not result in a response. Due to the problem of “phone tag”, student phone calls will normally not be returned. Emails with specific questions will be answered as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours (during week days). Students who need more than a brief response should arrange a meeting with the instructor.  Wandering in and out of the classroom without prior permission is unacceptable and you could lose participation points for doing so. Doing such things will affect your grade. Also, improper conduct like interrupting too much, talking with peers, been disrespectful to professor and peers will affect your grade. Joking and having small conversations while the professor or peers are talking are considered disruptive behavior and it will not be tolerated.  Participation in class involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:  • Your use of Spanish in the classroom.  • Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities.  • Your cooperation during group and pair work.  • Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.  • Your daily preparation for each class.  • Your instructor may assign written homework that will be collected and graded; these  Assignments form part of your participation grade  Participation does not mean interrupting the class, leaving the room and coming back, and/or just asking questions.  CLASS PARTICIPATION:  A (90-100) Student prepares for the lesson, volunteers answers, responds correctly.  B (89-80) Student responds when called upon; answers are generally correct.  C (79-70) Student has some problems with the subject, but makes an effort to be  Prepared, understand, and respond.  D (69-60) Student does not respond correctly, is not prepared for class, does  Not have materials ready, and is absent frequently.  F (59-0) Student can’t answer questions, does other things not concerning class,  and is absent most of the time.  PLEASE INCLUDE HERE DETAILED INF ABOUT THIS      Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.   1. The use of the computers in the language lab is exclusively for activities relevant to the class. The language lab is not a printing lab, so you are not allowed to print papers in the language lab. Also, you are not allowed to "chat" or go to sites like “My space" or check your bank account during your time in the lab. You will be warned not to do so once but if the behavior continues, you could be asked to leave the language lab. You are not to modify any hardware or software system configuration or setting. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct will be considered a violation. | | |
| **INTERNET RESEARCH**  INTERNET RESEARCH STATEMENT: | Students who are absent are fully responsible for all material covered in class. Leaving a message on my phone or sending an e-mail will not be an excused absence. Make sure you can contact your classmates too.  Students should bring the textbook and any other material required for class.  During exams and quizzes, students may not leave the room.  The instructor’s office extension is \_\_\_1473\_\_\_\_\_\_. Messages should consist of your name, your class and class time, and a brief message. Questions such as “What did we cover in class?” will not result in a response. Due to the problem of “phone tag”, student phone calls will normally not be returned. Emails with specific questions will be answered as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours (during week days). Students who need more than a brief response should arrange a meeting with the instructor.  Wandering in and out of the classroom without prior permission is unacceptable and you could lose participation points for doing so. Doing such things will affect your grade.  Also, improper conduct like interrupting too much, talking with peers, been disrespectful to professor and peers will affect your grade. Joking and having small conversations while the professor or peers are talking are considered disruptive behavior and it will not be tolerated.  Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.  The use of the computers is exclusively for activities relevant to the class. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct will be considered a violation.  Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable.  Many sites contain research and information of high quality.  However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet.  There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the Internet for their research needs when working on activities.  For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, uses of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs.  **However, each professor makes the final determination of what is or is not accepted as a valid source so review the syllabus for specific guidelines from your professor**. | | |
| Office of Students with Disabilities:  TESTING CENTER-WEST | | | Students who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first week of class.  The Office for Students with Disabilities (West-SSB 102) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.  The goal at the OSD is to open doors, remove barriers and assist you in any way the can. The key to success is matching your needs to the services provided. Please contact this office to discuss your individual needs.  The link to Valencia’s OSD website: http://www.valenciacollege.edu/osd  The TESTING CENTER-WEST is located in Building 11 Room 142 --407-582-1323  Please note!!!  No tests are given out the last hour before closing—for example, if  the Center closes at 9 p.m., the last test is given out at 8 p.m. Tests  will be collected 5 minutes prior to closing.  Fall and Spring Terms:  Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9 p.m.  Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  Summer Full Term, Session A, and Session B  Regular Hours except for Fridays: Fridays: 8:00 am- 12:00 Noon  WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING  Your Valencia Photo I.D. is REQUIRED for all tests!  Valencia Photo IDs are taken in the Student Development offices on each campus (West Campus office is on the 1st floor of Building 3). The Valencia photo I.D. also has your VID number on it.  The name of the course you are taking and your instructor’s name.  All supplies you will need to take the test. If your test requires bluebooks or green scantron sheets, purchase them in the bookstore. The Testing Center does not provide notebook paper, pens or pencils. Dictionaries and calculators may be borrowed.  WHAT YOU DO NOT BRING  1. Beepers, cell phones, personal tape or CD players, palm pilots, laptop computers.  2. Food or beverages. You will not be allowed to take these to your seat.  3. Children are not permitted in the Testing Center – The Testing Center does not provide sitting services during your test. |
| Valencia General Education Student Learning Outcomes  IMPORTANT VALENCIA WEBSITE LINKS: | | **CULTURAL & HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING**: Demonstrate understanding of the diverse traditions of the world, and an individual's place in it.  **ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY**: Demonstrate awareness of personal responsibility in one's civic, social, and academic life.  **CRITICAL THINKING**: Effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.   * College Calendar: <http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/> * College Catalog: <http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/> * Valencia Policy and Procedures: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/> * FERPA: <http://valenciacollege.edu/ferpa/> * ADA: <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/handbook/sec4.htm> * Medical Records: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/ValenciaCollegePolicy.cfm?policyID=186> | |
| DISCLAIMER: | | Changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor. | |

COURSE OUTLINE

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| Sessions | Dates | Topics | Text |
| 1 | 1/12 | Course Intro., What is philosophy? | 1-9 |
| 2 | 1/14 | Group Intro, Platonism | 9-18; 23-24 |
| 3 | 1/19 | ML King Holiday |  |
| 4 | 1/21 | Aristotelianism, Hedonism, Epicureanism | 25-28 |
| 5 | 1/26 | Stoicism, Augustinianism, Thomism | 28-30 |
| 6 | 1/28 | Hobbes’ Egoism, Hume’s Sentimentalism | 30-32 |
| 7 | 2/2 | Kant’s Rationalism | 32-34 |
| 8 | 2/4 | Utilitarianism, Existentialism | 34-38 |
| 9 | 2/9 | Darwin’s Naturalism; Care Ethics, Review | 38-39;41-43 |
| 10 | 2/11 | Test #1 | 41-43 |
| 11 | 2/16 | Unit Intro., Plato, Aristotle | 46-49 |
| 12 | 2/18 | Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau | 49-53 |
| 13 | 2/23 | Mill, Marx | 54-57 |
| 14 | 2/25 | Mussolini, Rawls, Nozick, Test 2 Given | 58-62 |
| 15 | 3/2 | Unit 3 Intro., Pre-Socratics, Plato Aristotle | 63-72 |
| 16 | 3/4 | Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas; (Test #2 Due in class) | 72-75 |
| 17 | 3/9 | SPRING BREAK | - |
| 18 | 3/11 | SPRING BREAK | - |
| 19 | 3/16 | Descartes; Concept Maps | 76-78 |
| 20 | 3/18 | Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke | 78-83 |
| 21 | 3/23 | Berkeley, Hume, Kant | 83-88 |
| 22 | 3/25 | Hegel, Dewey, Russell | 89-92 |
| 23 | 3/30 | Wittgenstein, Rorty, Quine, Review | 93-96 |
| 24 | 4/1 | Test #3 |  |
| 25 | 4/6 | Unit Intro., Anselm, Thomas Aquinas | 97-101 |
| 26 | 4/8 | Juliana, Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz | 101-104 |
| 27 | 4/13 | Project Papers (Group, Personal) Project Presentations | 19-20 |
| 28 | 4/15 | Hume, Kant, Paley | 104-107 |
| 29 | 4/20 | Newman, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, James | 107-110 |
| 30 | 4/22 | Flew, Plantinga, Daly | 110-112 |
| 31 | 4/29 | Final 10 AM-12:30 PM in 1-234 |  |
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