VALENCIA COLLEGE SYLLABUS

FALL SEMESTER 2021

PHILOSOPHY, PHI 2010, CRN 14870

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Andrew Alexander, West Campus, Office: 6-326

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* Office Hours: MW 1-2:30; W 4-5

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.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: NONE CREDIT HOURS: 3

TERM: FALL: August 23- December 6

REQUIRED TEXT:

Alexander, Andrew, PHILOSOPHIZING: Creating a World of Ideas, Kendall Hunt

An e-book is available, from the Kendall Hunt, for roughly half the price.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 30—Drop/ Refund Deadline; Sept. 6—Labor Day Holiday; Nov.3—Withdrawal Deadline; Nov.24-28—Thanksgiving; Dec.6 –Final Exam

COURSE FORMAT

As a “mixed mode” course, lectures, discussions, readings, reviews, and evaluations are done in class and in the CANVAS format.

MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to do the following:

1 Question basic beliefs.

2 Check the assumptions and implications of key ideas.

3 Explore diverse theories and perspectives in philosophical history.

4 Define concepts with necessary criteria.

5 Articulate objections and construct arguments.

6 Develop ideas on morality, society, reality, knowledge and religion.

VALENCIA COLLEGE CORE COMPETENCIES

1 Thinking Critically

2 Valuing Appreciatively

3 Communicating Effectively

4 Acting Responsibly

GENERAL EDUCATION

1 Cultural & Historical Understanding

Demonstrate understanding of the diverse traditions of the world, and the individual’s place in it.

2 Ethical Responsibility

Demonstrate awareness of personal responsibility in one’s civic, social and academic life.

3 Critical Thinking

Effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale is as follows:

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 and Ethics

2 Political Philosophy

3 Metaphysics & Epistemology

4 The Philosophy of Religion

A unit test comes at the end of each unit. The grading system is as follows:

1 four short essay tests in Canvas= 20%each

2 four true – false quizzes in class= 5%

3 four review peer discussions in Canvas=5%

4 class attendance= 5%

5 class participation=5%

The final exam is Dec.6, the fourth essay test in Canvas

FACULTY / STUDENT COMMUNICATION

Valencia College is committed to providing each student with a high- quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to talk with your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the department. We will work together to resolve any issues that may arise.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1 Read all assignments carefully.

2 Use our philosophical method.

3 Participate in learning activities.

4. Be a positive role model.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

If you miss a class or activity or are late, it will impact your grade. Classroom activity and punctuality are 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:

# of absences # of points

0-----------------------------------------------------5 points

1-----------------------------------------------------4 points

2-----------------------------------------------------3 points

3-----------------------------------------------------2 points etc

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation in class includes the following criteria:

1 your daily preparation for each class

2 your willingness to participate in class discussions

3 your respectful attitude toward the class and your peers

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw themselves for a W up until the withdrawal deadline. After the withdrawal deadline, Nov.3, students can no longer withdraw themselves. A professor may withdraw a student for excessive absences or very disrespectful behavior. This includes rude or unwarranted interruptions, vulgar or obscene language, or other forms of intimidation, or physically or verbally abusive behavior.

Any student, knowing he/she is not passing the course, but fails to withdraw by Nov.3, and decides to stop coming to class, should know that the professor will not withdraw him/her from the course. A grade of F will be assigned.

MAKE- UP POLICY

Tests not completed on time will lose points, unless a valid excuse, with proper documentation as verification, is supplied.

COVID 19 POLICY

Throughout the COVID pandemic, Valencia College has been primarily focused on the health and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. This continues to be our priority, as we return to face to face classes, and college policy continues to be guided by science and the guidelines issued by the CDC and our partners at Orlando Health. All students, along with their friends and family, are encouraged to get vaccinated. If you become ill with COVID, please inform your professors and co-workers, for your safety and the safety of our Valencia community. I will try to help you to complete the coursework successfully. Please inform our COVID liason, Tanya Mahan(COVIDillness@valenciacollege.edu) as well, so she can support you in this process. We are in this together! For more information please consult:

<https://valenciacollege.edu/about/coronavirus>.

HB 233 POLICY

Students may record video and/or audio of class lectures for their personal use. Recordings may be used to support your learning. However, it is important to respect your peer’s right to privacy. Please refrain from recording your peers. Furthermore, you may not publish or share recordings without written consent.

IMPORTANT LINKS

1 College Calendar: http:/valenciacollege.edu.calendar

2 College Catalog: http:/ valenciacollege.edu.catalog

3FERPA: http:/valenciacollege.edu/ferpa

4 ADA: http:/valenciacollege.edu osd handbook.sec4htm

SUPPORT SERVICES

Tutoring services are available in 7-240.The phone extension is 1633.Valencia offers a variety of SkillShops. These are short seminars dealing with student success, goals and purposes. Check out Valencia’s Skillshop offerings at

http:/valenciacollege.edu/studentservices/skillshops.cfm

STUDENT DISABILITIES

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 OSD, West SSB 102, determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The goal of the OSD is to open doors, remove barriers and assist you in any way they can. The key to success is matching your needs to the services provided. Please contact this office to discuss your individual needs. Use <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd>

BAYCARE

Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program is an important resource. Valencia’s students can get immediate help with psychological issues—stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management, and relationship problems regarding school, home or work. Students have 24hour counseling services at 800-878-5470. Three confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students. Also, students may contact the Victim Service Center’s Sexual Assault Hotline at 407-497-6701 or <http://victimservicecenter.com>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Each student is required to follow Valencia’s policy regarding academic honesty. All work by students is expected to be the result of the student’s individual thought and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states “group project.”

Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia’s policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of 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, probation, suspension or expulsion from the college. Please read the Student Handbook.

Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct website:

[http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policydetail2cfmPolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policydetail2cfmPolicyCatID%3D10%26PolicyID%3D3)

Exams and papers are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit. If anyone is involved in cheating, a zero will be given on the exam. This cannot be replaced and the professor, at his/her discretion, can withdraw the student from the class.

Students are responsible for preparing for class by reading pre-assigned textual materials and applying a philosophical method in their reflections. Students should bring the textbook and any other materials for class.

Students who are absent are fully responsible for all materials covered in class. Make sure you can contact a classmate to hear about what was missed in our class discussions. Reviewing the course outline, at the end of the syllabus, will help you to be current with the readings. Leaving a message with our humanities secretary, x1300, is a good idea. An even better idea is to contact me by email in ATLAS or CANVAS to explain your absence. Do not use your private email.

All professors are impressed by responsible behavior on the part of their students. Improper conduct, however, should be avoided. Being disrespectful to your peers or professor, leaving the classroom without prior permission, interrupting class activities and any sort of disruptive behavior will result in a loss of participation points.

COURSE OUTLINE

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # | Date | Topics | Pages | Essays |
| 1 | 8/23 | Course Intro., Philosophy, Method | 1-9 |  |
| 2 | 8/30 | Intro., Plato, Aristotle, Hedonism, Epicureanism | 23-28 |  |
| 3 | 9/6 | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |  |  |
| 4 | 9/13 | QUIZ, Stoicism, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas | 28-30 |  |
| 5 | 9/20 | Hobbes’ Egoism, Hume’s Sentimentalism, Kant’s Rationalism | 30-34 |  |
| 6 | 9/27 | Utilitarianism, Existentialism, Darwinian Naturalism, Care Ethics, Review | 34-39 | ESSAY#1 |
| 7 | 10/4 | Intro., Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau | 46-53 |  |
| 8 | 10/11 | QUIZ, Mill, Marx, Mussolini, Rawls, Nozick, Review | 54-62 | ESSAY#2 |
| 9 | 10/18 | Intro., Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas | 62-75 |  |
| 10 | 10/25 | QUIZ, Descartes, Hobbes, Spinoza, Leibniz | 76-82 |  |
| 11 | 11/1 | Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant | 82-88 |  |
| 12 | 11/8 | Hegel, Dewey, Russell, Wittgenstein, Rorty, Quine, Review | 89-96 | ESSAY#3 |
| 13 | 11/15 | Intro., Anselm, Aquinas, Juliana, Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz | 98-104 |  |
| 14 | 11/22 | QUIZ, Hume, Kant, Paley, Newman, Marx | 104-108 |  |
| 15 | 11/29 | Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, James, Flew, Plantinga, Daly, Review | 108-112 |  |
| 16 | 12/6 | FINAL ESSAY #4 |  |  |