VALENCIA COLLEGE

PHILOSOPHY

PHI 2010; W01 or W03

CRN10196 (W01)/ CRN 14691 (W03)

Fall 2014 COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

NAME : Dr. Andrew Alexander

OFFICE : 5-259

PHONE : 407-582-1473

E-MAIL : [AAlexander@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:AAlexander@valenciacollege.edu)

OFFICE HOURS : MW 9-10; 11:30-12:30

TR 1-3

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS :

This course involves lectures and group discussions; individual, as well as group work, is required. **Index cards are required**.

COURSE INFORMATION

CONTACT HRS/WK : 3

LOCATION : West, 1-233( W03) ; 5-212 (W01)

TIME : MW 10-11:15 (W03

MW 1-2:15 (W01)

TERMS OFFERED : Every term as needed

CREDIT HOURS : 3

PREREQUISITE : NONE

REFUND OF FEES : The Drop Refund deadline for this course 9/2/2014

TEXT : Alexander, Andrew, Philosophizing

ISBN 978-7575-8140-3

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 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.

VALENCIA’S CORE COMPETENCIES

Valencia’s core competencies are essential skills that promote life-long learning. These interrelated competencies refer to thinking, valuing, communicating and acting. Students are exposed to these competencies by the cultivation of critical thinking, reflective valuing, effective communicating and responsible acting. Students are encouraged to ask critical questions regarding morality, society, reality, knowledge and God. By exploring various perspectives, defining basic beliefs and constructing arguments and counter arguments, the essential core abilities are developed in a progressive and systematic way.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Listen to the lectures and discussions. Engage in honest and respectful group discussions and debates. Do not use electronic devices (cell phones, computers etc.). Updating your Facebook status, sleeping, texting and making excessive noises are not acceptable. Disruptive behavior may result in very negative consequences, including expulsion from the classroom or even referral to the proper authorities.

Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program

Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that end, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. Students have a 24 hour unlimited access to the Baycare Behavioral Health’s confidential student assistance program phone counseling services by calling (800) 878-5470. Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.

COURSE OUTLINE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sessions | Dates | Topics | Text |
| 1 | 8/25 | Course Intro., What is philosophy? | 1-9 |
| 2 | 8/27 | Group Intro, Platonism | 9-18; 23-24 |
| 3 | 9/3 | Aristotelianism, Hedonism, Epicureanism | 25-28 |
| 4 | 9/8 | Stoicism, Augustinianism, Thomism | 28-30 |
| 5 | 9/10 | Hobbes’ Egoism, Hume’s Sentimentalism | 30-32 |
| 6 | 9/15 | Kant’s Rationalism | 32-34 |
| 7 | 9/17 | Utilitarianism, Existentialism | 34-38 |
| 8 | 9/22 | Darwin’s Naturalism; Care Ethics, Review | 38-39;41-43 |
| 9 | 9/24 | Test #1 | 41-43 |
| 10 | 9/29 | Unit Intro., Plato, Aristotle | 46-49 |
| 11 | 10/1 | Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau | 49-53 |
| 12 | 10/6 | Mill, Marx | 54-57 |
| 13 | 10/8 | Mussolini, Rawls, Nozick, Test 2 Given | 58-62 |
| 14 | 10/13 | Unit 3 Intro., Pre-Socratics, Concept Maps | 63-68 |
| 15 | 10/15 | Plato, Aristotle; (Test #2 Due in class) | 68-72 |
| 16 | 10/20 | Plotinus, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas | 72-75 |
| 17 | 10/22 | Descartes; Concept Maps | 76-78 |
| 18 | 10/27 | Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke | 78-83 |
| 19 | 10/29 | Berkeley, Hume, Kant | 83-88 |
| 20 | 11/3 | Hegel, Dewey, Russell | 89-92 |
| 21 | 11/5 | Wittgenstein, Rorty, Quine, Review | 93-96 |
| 22 | 11/10 | Test #3 |  |
| 23 | 11/12 | Unit Intro., Anselm, Thomas Aquinas | 97-101 |
| 24 | 11/17 | Juliana, Descartes, Pascal, Leibniz | 101-104 |
| 25 | 11/19 | Project Papers (Group, Personal) Project Presentations | 19-20 |
| 26 | 11/24 | Hume, Kant, Paley | 104-107 |
| 27 | 12/1 | Newman, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, James | 107-110 |
| 28 | 12/3 | Flew, Plantinga, Daly | 110-112 |
| 29 | 12/8  Or  12/8 | (W01) Final 1 PM  (W03) Final 10 AM |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Grading Policy

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:

(W01) 1PM

Or (W03) 10 AM

Missing the final exam will result in a grade of F, until the student takes a make-up final.

Make-Up Policy

Tests that are not done in class must be taken in the testing center. Make-up tests are more difficult than regular in-class tests. 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 final project.

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Attendance counts for 5% of the grade. It will be based on the following scale:

0 absence = A

1 absence = B

2 absences = C

3 absences = D etc.

Note that coming late to class, or leaving early, counts as half an absence.

Withdrawal Deadline and Policy

A student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of 11/7/2014 will receive a grade of W. If you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F or I. An I (incomplete) grade is only given due to very unusual circumstances. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will receive a grade of A, B, C, D or F. Failing to make up the work during the following semester will result in a grade of F for the course. A student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of F. Please note that students on financial aid should always consult an advisor or counselor before withdrawing from a course, in order to avoid negative financial consequences. Students with some scholarships, who withdraw or are withdrawn, might be required to pay for the class.

Valencia Business Office Policy

Valencia has a clear policy concerning Withdrawal Actions because of non-payment. If you are currently enrolled and have a returned check, delinquent loan, delinquent VA deferment or other financial obligation, you will be notified. If you do not respond within the allowed time, the college reserves the right to financially withdraw you from all classes. Please be advised that you will not be allowed in class, if your name is deleted from the official roll.

If you are dropped during the semester from non-payment, you may not be able to get back into class and it is your responsibility to keep your professors informed when you get letters for non-payment. Be advised that the College Business Office will notify all students before any action will be taken. However, once an account is submitted, a 25% fee will be assessed to the outstanding balance of your Valencia account and payment must be rendered to the collections agency directly after submission.

Faculty/Student Communication

Students should keep in touch with their professors by e-mail or in person, during office hours. During weekdays, e-mail is answered within 24 hours. Valencia is committed to providing a high quality educational experience. 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 to the academic dean of the department. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.

Academic Honesty Statement

Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will be cause for a failing grade for the assignment.

No Food or Drink in the Classroom

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities must provide a Notification to Instructor from the Office for Students with Disabilities and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. Appropriate documentation is necessary.

Support Services

Tutoring services are available in 7-240. The phone extension is 1633. The Writing Center is also a valuable resource. It may be found in 5-155, or phone 407-582-1812.

Security Statement

Valencia’s security officers are here around the clock to ensure our safety. Report any suspicious persons to West Campus Security at 407-582-1000 or by using the yellow emergency call boxes on the light poles in the parking lots and along walkways.

Study Tips

To do well in this course, students should read, take good notes, review the practice questions, and practice the art of defining concepts and constructing arguments. Listen and talk to your professor and peers in class. Keep in touch with your professor and friends in your “home group” by phone or e-mail.

Disclaimer

The course outline is subject to change as needed. Every effort will be made to announce any change in class, in a timely manner.