Valencia College

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Andrew Alexander, West Campus, Room 6-325

Phone: 407-582-1300, leave message

Email: aalexander@valenciacollege.edu in Atlas

The email, on the sidebar, in Canvas, is also available.

Office Hours: Mon.2-4 pm; Tues. 5-6 pm

COURSE TITLE

ETHICS & CRITICAL THINKING, PHI 2600, CRN 14747

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of major theoretical principles on which claims to a good life and moral action have been based, such as hedonism, utilitarianism, and rationalism. Each theory is illustrated by representative selections from the works of great philosophers from the classical period to the 20th century.

PREREQUISITE

ENC1101—Freshman Composition

TERM

Fall–Aug.23 – Dec.6 2022

CREDIT HOURS

3 credit hours

REQUIRED TEXT

None---Reading materials, as outlined in the syllabus, are on-line.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug.29 Drop/Refund Deadline; Oct.28 Withdrawal Deadline; Dec.6 Final Exam

COURSE FORMAT

The course involves lectures, discussions, readings, an objective(true-false) test and three essays.

ELECTRONIC DEVISES

No electronic devises, without permission, and no text messaging!

MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to define moral concepts.

2. Students will be able to identify key assumptions and implications of major moral theories and concepts.

3. Students will be able to explore arguments in the public debate on contemporary moral issues.

4. Students will be able to evaluate moral arguments for coherence, consistency, and plausibility.

5. Students will be able to reflect on the connections between moral perspectives and personal and social responsibilities.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used: A= 90-100; B=80-90; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60

UNITS

The course consists of four units:

1. Greco-Roman Ethics

2. Modern & Contemporary Ethics

3. Meta-ethics

4. Applied (Professional) Ethics

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Three Essays (20% each) = 60 %

2. One Objective (True-False) Test = 20 %

3. Participation = 10 %

4. Attendance = 10%

The final exam is on

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY

Extra credit is not given. To gain maximum points, essays should display clear organization, and thoughtful content, with good grammar and spelling.

VALENCIA’S 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 civic, social, and academic life.

3. Critical Thinking

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

If you miss a class, or are late, it will impact your grade. Excused absences are only allowed in accordance with Valencia’s policies. You must attend classes, be on time, and submit assignments on their due dates. Attendance counts for 10% of the grade, based on the following scale:

1.----o absence = 10 points

2.----1 absence = 9 points

3.----2 absences = 8 points

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation in class involves the following criteria:

1. your daily preparation for class

2. your willingness to participate in class discussions

3. your respectful attitude toward the class and your peers

FACULTY-STUDENT

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.

WTTHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw themselves for a W up until the withdrawal deadline. After the withdrawal deadline, Oct.28, 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 or she is not passing the course, but fails to withdraw by Oct.28, 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 the sake of your safety and the safety of our Valencia community. I will try to help you to complete the coursework successfully. Please inform our COVID liaison, Tanya Mahan (COVID illness@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 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

3. Valencia Policy and Procedures

4. FERPA: http:/ valenciacollege.edu/ferpa

5. ADA: http:/valenciacollege.edu osd handbook.sec4 htm

SUPPORT SERVICES

Teaching services are available in 7-240.The phone extension is 1633. Variety 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://www.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 24-hour counseling services at 800-878-5470. Three free 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://www.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 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, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college. Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook. Here is the relevant website:

[http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policydetail2.cfmPolicyCatID=108PolicyID=3](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policydetail2.cfmPolicyCatID%3D108PolicyID%3D3)

Exams and papers are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit. Students may collaborate in group assignments. If anyone cheats, however, a zero will be given on the exam. This cannot be replaced with the final score 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 on-line materials and applying a philosophical method in their reflections.

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. All professors are impressed by responsible behavior on the part of their students.

Improper conduct, however, should be avoided. Being disrespectful to your professor or peers, leaving the room without prior permission, interrupting class activities and any sort of disruptive behavior will result in a loss of participation points.

To maximize your points on the essay portion of your assessments, the topic is given one week before the due date, and a class session is reserved for the writing of a rough draft. To produce a high-quality final draft, please examine the following “writing rubric”.

WRITING RUBRIC

FORM (PATTERN OF ORGANIZATION)

1. Focus on the topic……………………………………………………………UNITY

2. Develop a clear thesis statement……………………………………. CLARITY

3. Use good topic sentences and transitional sentences………. CONNECTIVITY

4. Demonstrate sentence variety…………………………………………. DIVERSITY

CONTENT (SUBSTANCE)

5. Define ideas with general criteria………………………………………. CLARITY

6. Employ specific examples, counterexamples and theories… SPECIFICITY

7. Articulate objections…………………………………………………………. IMPARTIALITY

8. Justify the thesis with good reasons in an argument…………. RATIONALITY

MECHANICS

9. Display correct grammar……………………………………………………. CONSISTENCY

10. Use correct spelling…………………………………………………………. ACCURACY

To develop the skills that are embedded in writing effective essays, we will frequently refer to the criteria in the writing rubric.

READING LIST- INTERNET SOURCES

1 Human Virtue in Plato and Aristotle by John Alison

 <http://www.hep.upenn.edu/-johnda/Papers/Virtue.pdf>

2. Hedonism-The Basics of Philosophy

 <http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_hedonism.htm>

3. Epicureanism-The Basics of Philosophy

 <http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_epicureanism.html>

4. Stoicism-The Basics of Philosophy

 <http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_stoicism.html>

5. A Reasonable Imagination: Augustine, Ethics, and the Human Condition

 [http://robertvelarde.blogspot.com/2008/10/Augustine- ethics-and-human-condition.html](http://robertvelarde.blogspot.com/2008/10/Augustine-%20ethics-and-human-condition.html)

6. Thomas Aquinas: Moral Philosophy-Internet Encyclopedia

 <http://www.iep.utm.edu/aq-moral>

7. Thomas Hobbes’ View of Morality-alzermalmer

 https:/allzermalmer.wordpress.com/2012/02/19/thomas-hobbs-view-of-morality

8. David Hume: Theory of Morality-Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

9. Kant’s Moral Theory (Video)

 <https://youtube.com/watch?v=W_Q8cNzjTvO>

10. Utilitarianism-Wikipedia

 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/utilitarianism>

11. BBC-Ethics-Introduction to Ethics: Intuitionism

 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/intuitionism_1.shtml>

12. Evolutionary Ethics-Internet Encyclopedia

 https:/www.iep.utm.edu/evol-eth

13. Pragmatic Ethics

 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatic_ethics>

14. Social Contract Theory, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

 http:/www.iep.utm.edu/soc-cont/

15. Cultural Relativism- Philosophy

 <http://allaboutphilosophy.org/cultural-relativism.htm>

16. Existential Ethics- Philosophy Home Page

[http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/sartre.html](http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/sartre.html%2017)

[17](http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/sartre.html%2017). Ethics of Care-Wikipedia

 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics_of_care>

18\*\*Taking Sides—Library Reserve at Valencia---optional

19. Professional Ethics----Personal Choice in the final unit

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| 1 | 8-23 | Intro.: Ethics & Critical Thinking |
| 2 | 8-30 | Plato, Aristotle, Hedonism, Epicureanism (Reading Selections 1,2 & 3) |
| 3 | 9-6 | Stoicism, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas (4,5,6), Essay Rubric, Rough Draft in class |
| 4 | 9-13 | ESSAY #1 DUE, Self-Evaluation, Hobbes’ Egoism, Hume’s Sentimentalism, Kant’s Rationalism(7,8,9) |
| 5 | 9-20 | Utilitarianism, Intuitionism, Evolutionary Ethics (10,11,12) |
| 6 | 9-27 | Pragmatism, Social Contract Theory, Cultural Relativism (13,14,15) |
| 7 | 10-4 | Existentialism, Care Ethics (16,17) |
| 8 | 10-11 | Review Moral Theories, Explore Controversial Social Policies, Construct Pro & Con Arguments |
| 9 | 10-18 | ESSAY #2 DUE, Self-Evaluation, Meta-Ethics Intro. |
| 10 | 10-23 | Free Will vs Determinism, Inclusivity vs Exclusivity, Levels of Difficulty |
| 11 | 11-1 | Universal Truth, Socio-Cultural Tradition, Personal Taste |
| 12 | 11-8 | “Good”, Emotivism vs Cognitivism; “Right”, Deontological vs Consequentialist Approaches, Review |
| 13 | 11-15 | Personal Review, Objective Test, Intro. Professional Ethics, Library Search |
| 14 | 11-22 | Concept Definitions, Individual and Social Criteria, Maslow’s Hierarchy |
| 15 | 11-29 | Values Clarification, Moral Values for Professionals (MVPs), Metaethics Review, Rough Draft  |
| 16 | 12-6 | Final Exam (ESSAY #3 DUE), Metaethics Retake |