

PHI2010: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY – Spring 2017



VALENCIA COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR: Anthony F. Crisafi, Ph.D.

CREDITS: 3

OFFICE HOURS: Call Professor Crisafi at 386-315-3069 for an appointment

CLASS MEETING TIME: OC-003 105, TR 1200-1350

EMAIL: Contact Professor Crisafi through college email:

acrisafi1@valenciacollege.edu. You may expect a response within 48 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Contemporary problems are used to introduce the major areas of philosophy: metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, theories of knowledge and the philosophy of religion. Students explore the writings of notable philosophers, past and present, and examine how their ideas shed light on these problems and their relevance to modern life.

Major topics include:

- The Nature of Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Aesthetics
- Ethics
- Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion

TEXT:

The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy, 8th Ed. by Robert C. Solomon and Kathleen M. Higgins. **NOTE:** This text is available through the course Blackboard as a PDF file for you at no charge!

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS:

- Weekly readings available through Blackboard
- Online Modules with Lecture Notes and Assignments
- Various Websites as linked in each week's lesson

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify key assumptions and implications of major philosophical theories and perspectives in their historical context.
2. Define essential philosophical concepts.
- 3 Evaluate philosophical theories and arguments for coherence, consistency, and plausibility.
4. Construct philosophical arguments.
5. Develop college-level writing skills.

The Student Learning Outcomes listed in this syllabus are those required actions that a student who successfully completes the course must be able to perform. The educational experience, however, is a two-way, interactive process involving both the student and the instructor. The student must play an active role in the learning process in order to be successful. A student who is unable to accomplish the outcomes will not receive a passing grade in the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student has individual responsibility for attending class regularly and for meeting course objectives. A student is expected to attend all class meetings. A student will have 25 points deducted from his or her total score for each absence. Tardiness is not acceptable classroom behavior. Tardiness will be viewed as absenteeism. The professor's records, not your recollections, will be the determining factor in resolving disputes concerning attendance and tardiness. **NO-SHOW POLICY:** Attend class by **March 2, 2017** in order to avoid being withdrawn as a "no-show".

ATLAS EMAIL

The instructor will use the Atlas email system for contacting students. Each student is required to check their Atlas email so they do not miss any important announcements from the instructor. The instructor is not responsible for information that is missed because a student failed to check their Atlas email frequently. Also, if you do not keep your Atlas mailbox maintained by deleting all

old messages from your inbox, sent box, and deleted messages box, you may not receive email.

FACULTY STUDENT COMMUNICATION

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

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

April 7, 2017 is the withdrawal deadline for the term for receiving a “W” grade. If you withdraw from a course prior to this date, you will automatically receive a “W,” regardless of the grade you were earning at the time. A withdrawal after the deadline can only be performed administratively. A student is not permitted to withdraw from this class after the withdrawal deadline; if you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F or I. Students who are not passing and who stop posting to the class and who do not withdraw by the deadline will receive an F. The professor will not withdraw any student for any reason; it is the responsibility of students to withdraw themselves before the withdrawal deadline and to be aware of the date of the withdrawal deadline.

Because withdrawal may have financial implications, it may be wise to consult your advisor before withdrawing.

An I (incomplete) grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will get an A, B,C,D or F. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in you getting a grade of F in the course. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

Assignments:

- 1. Research Paper:** You are required to work on a research paper for this course. The paper will be completed in stages – A Proposal, An Annotated Bibliography, and the Final Paper. For this assignment, you will consider a philosophical question concerning one of the philosophical issues we will investigate in this course. You will be required to conduct research into these fields using both the readings from this course and outside sources as well. The assignments must be written in proper Standard American English, formatted according to MLA

standards, they must include quotes from the readings, and will be graded accordingly. **NOTE:** You may not use unreliable internet sources, such as Wikipedia, SparkNotes, etc. All of your research must come from verifiable sources that can be found through the Library database!

2. **Homework Assignments:** There will be homework assignments throughout the term, each associated with specific chapters in the Solomon text and based on the readings. The assignments must be written in proper Standard American English, formatted according to MLA standards, they must include quotes from the readings, and will be graded accordingly. These assignments will be submitted via the Assignments section of the course.
3. **In Class Assignments:** We will have in class assignments due every day we meet. The assignments are made of prompts to issues we will discuss, and you will find these prompts in the “In Class Assignments” section of Blackboard. You are to answer the prompts and bring your answers to class, where we will then discuss your answers.
4. **Module Quizzes:** There will be a series of quizzes throughout the term, and they will test the student’s knowledge of the subjects concerning each of the chapters and the supplemental readings associated with each chapter. These quizzes will be administered online through Blackboard.
5. **Final Exam:** The Final Exam will be administered during the Final Exam period, the dates of which are Monday, April 24-Sunday, April 30. The Final Exam will be composed of a comprehensive Final that will be administered online through Blackboard.

| Grading Procedures: Assignment | Points as Percentage of Grade |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Research Paper | 30% |
| Homework | 20% |
| In Class Assignments | 20% |
| Quizzes | 20% |
| Final Exam | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

INSTRUCTOR’S PET PEEVES/POLICIES

Respect the instructor and other students. Let’s be nice in the discussions. In this class there are no bad questions and disagreement is handled without emotion or insult. The instructor wants everyone to feel comfortable so they will participate in the discussions.

Classroom Behavior:

Valencia Community College is dedicated to promoting honorable personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for

knowing and abiding by the rules articulated in the Student Code of Conduct (6Hx28:10-03). The instructor reserves the right to refer students who engage in activities that are disruptive to the learning environment to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. The following list, though not exhaustive, includes things which are disruptive to the learning environment:

- All cell phones, ipods, laptop computers (unless you have paperwork from the OSD) and other technological gadgets must be turned OFF prior to entering the classroom and remain off and put away while class is in session. Anyone who is seen text-messaging or checking their cell phones for messages during class has clearly violated this policy and may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.
- Preparing homework for other courses during class.
- Engaging in private conversations with classmates while class is in session.
- Excessive tardiness
- Leaving and re-entering the classroom while the class is in session.

Violations of these policies will result in a loss of 25 points for each class meeting where a violation takes place.

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.

Any assignment showing signs of plagiarism will be graded zero. Students are advised to keep planning notes and outlines should the need for authentication arise. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that may result in failure of a particular assignment, failure of a particular class and or exclusion from the college. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism on an essay, consult the professor. Also, learn more by visiting <http://valenciacollege.edu/west/artsand-humanities/writing/plagiarism.cfm>

SECURITY STATEMENT

We want to reassure you that our security officers are here around the clock to ensure the safety and security of the campus community. It's important to remain alert and aware of your surroundings, especially during the early morning or evening hours. Remember that you can always call security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable walking alone on campus. White security phones can also be found in many of our buildings; simply pick up the phone and security will answer. Finally, report any suspicious persons to West Campus Security at 407-

582-1000, 407-582-1030 (after-hours number) or by using the yellow emergency call boxes located on light poles in the parking lots and along walkways.

OSD

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>

LATE/MISSED WORK

All work must be submitted by the deadline. Deadlines are listed Blackboard under “To do List/Calendar”. No late work will be accepted without a late penalty: 10 percent reduction in points for each day late. No late Final Essays will be Accepted

MISSED EXAMS

There is no guarantee that a make-up exam will be offered. The student may receive a 0. If a make-up exam is offered, it will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and there will be a one-letter grade penalty. There is no make-up test for the final exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week | Assignments Due Monday | Tuesday | Thursday | Assignment Friday |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Week 1: Feb 14 & Feb 16 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction • Reading: Introduction: Doing Philosophy in Solomon • In Class Assignment: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Plato, “Defense of Socrates”; Russell, “The Value of Philosophy” • In Class Assignment: Discussion of Readings | |

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| Week 2: Feb 21 & Feb 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 Homework Assignment Due Monday, Feb 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 1: Philosophical Questions in Solomon Text • In Class Assignment: Philosophical Questions Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Descartes, "Meditation on First Philosophy" • In Class Assignment: Discussion on Descartes | |
| Week 3: Feb 28 & March 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 Quiz Due Monday, Feb 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Read Chapter 2: The Meaning of Life • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Wolf; Vitrano; Nozick • In Class Assignment | |
| Week 4: March 7 & March 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Homework Assignment Due Monday, March 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 3: God in Solomon • In class assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Anselm; Aquinas; Pascal • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Res Sub Frid Mar |
| Week 5: March 14 & 16 | Spring Break! No Assignment This Week! | Spring Break! No Class! | Spring Break! No Class | Spring Br Assignment Wee |
| Week 6: March 21 & March 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Quiz Due Monday, March 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 4: The Nature of Reality in Solomon • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Locke; Russell • In Class Assignment | |
| Week 7: March 28 & March 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 Homework Assignment Due Monday, March 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 5: The Search for Truth in Solomon • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Hume; Kant • In Class Assignment | |
| Week 8: April 4 & April 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 Quiz Due Monday, April 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 6: Self in Solomon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Locke; Hume • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Bibl Due Apri |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Assignment | | |
| Week 9: April 11 & April 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Homework Assignment Due Monday, April 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 7: Freedom in Solomon • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Hume; James • In Class Assignment | |
| Week 10: April 18 & April 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Quiz Due Monday, April 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Chapter 8: Morality and the Good Life in Solomon; Chapter 9: Justice and the Good Society in Solomon • In Class Assignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Plato; Mill; Marx; Rawls; Nozick; Sen • In Class Assignment | |
| Week 11: Final Exam Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 5 Homework Assignment Due Monday, April 24 | Final Exam Period | Final Exam Period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Res Rep Frid 28 • Final Peri |
| Final Exam Due Sunday, April 30! | | | | |