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# PHI2010 - Introduction to Philosophy

**Osceola Campus**

**Course Syllabus and Classroom Policies**

**Fall 2022: August 22 – December 11**

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| **PROFESSOR:** | CJ Eland | **CRN:** | 10411 |
| **OFFICE LOCATION:** | none | **CREDIT HOURS:** | 3 |
| **OFFICE PHONE:** | none | **CLASS MEETINGS:** | none |
|  |  | **OFFICE HOURS:** | By appointment |
| **EMAIL:** | celand@valenciacollege.edu | **PREREQUISITES:** | none |

# COURSE OVERVIEW

## 

## Required Materials/Textbooks

1. None

## Canvas

## This course is being conducted completely online using Canvas. It is recommended that you review Canvas tutorials before beginning this material, and set up your phone or e-mail to give alerts for Canvas. To access Canvas, go to online.valenciacollege.edu. Enter your Atlas login and password. For details, contact Canvas support: 407-582-5600.

## Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to a number of themes from the history of philosophy and explore some of the ways in which those themes reverberate throughout contemporary society. While there are many ways to approach philosophical thinking, our approach will emphasize the ways in which the history of philosophy can inform and guide us to a better understanding of the world in which we live. Some of the themes we will examine will be: Metaphysics (essences, first principles), Epistemology (knowledge), Aesthetics (beauty, preferences), Social and Political Theory (justice, liberty, law), and Ethics (right, wrong, morality).

**Course Catalog Description/Learning Objectives:** Students are introduced to metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. Students explore the writings of notable philosophers, past and present, and examine how their ideas are relevant to modern life.

## Major Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, the student will have met the following learning objectives:

1. Students will identify assumptions and implications of philosophical arguments and perspectives.
2. Students will define philosophical concepts.
3. Students will evaluate philosophical arguments and perspectives for coherence and plausibility.
4. Students will construct philosophical arguments.

## Core Competencies of a Valencia Graduate

Valencia’s Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are considered the essential elements of a successful student.  This course will help you develop and demonstrate the abilities to: (1) think clearly, critically, reflectively, and creatively; (2) communicate with others verbally and in written form; (3) make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments; and (4) act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly. Our goal is to provide these global competencies in the context of application; this means that students will be required to understand problems and effectively communicate an appropriate solution.

# EVALUATION AND GRADING

**Evaluation and Course Grading**

Course evaluation is divided into four categories; together these categories will comprise the final grade.

* Discussion Posts/Class Participation: 30%
* Reading Quizzes: 30%
* Reflection Essays: 25%
* Lecture Quizzes: 15%

Rubrics for assignments and evaluations are available on Canvas under class content.

**Grading Scale and Evaluation** The sum of points earned throughout the course will determine a letter grade as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A: 90% - 100%  B: 80% - 89%  C: 70% - 79%  D: 60% - 69%  F: below 60% |  |
|  |  |

# COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

## Course Assignments and Point Values

A detailed description of each assignment type is explained in the Welcome Module in Canvas. Further information regarding points and expectations (such as length of writing assignments and grading criteria) are also located in rubrics attached to each assignment.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Due Date** | **Major Topic/Outcome** | **Assignment** | **Points** | **Earned** |
| Fri Aug 26 | Welcome Module | Welcome Module Scavenger Hunt | 10 |  |
| Fri Aug 26 | Welcome Module | Welcome Module Discussion Post | - |  |
| Fri Aug 26 | Plato's Apology | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Aug 26 | Plato's Apology | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Aug 26 | Plato's Apology | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 2 | Plato's Metaphysics | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 2 | Plato's Metaphysics | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 2 | Plato's Metaphysics | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 9 | Aristotle’s Metaphysics | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 9 | Aristotle’s Metaphysics | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 9 | Aristotle’s Metaphysics | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 9 | Aristotle’s Metaphysics | Reflection Essay #1 | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 16 | Augustine and Aquinas | Reading Quiz (Augustine) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 16 | Augustine and Aquinas | Lecture Quiz (Augustine) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 16 | Augustine and Aquinas | Reading Quiz (Aquinas) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 16 | Augustine and Aquinas | Lecture Quiz (Aquinas) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 23 | Descartes' Meditations | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 23 | Descartes' Meditations | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 23 | Descartes' Meditations | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 30 | Locke and Hume | Reading Quiz (Locke) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 30 | Locke and Hume | Lecture Quiz (Locke) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 30 | Locke and Hume | Reading Quiz (Hume) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 30 | Locke and Hume | Lecture Quiz (Hume) | 10 |  |
| Fri Sept 30 | Locke and Hume | Reflection Essay #2 | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 7 | Kant | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 7 | Kant | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 7 | Kant | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 14 | Nietzsche | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 14 | Nietzsche | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 14 | Nietzsche | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 14 | Nietzsche | Reflection Essay #3 | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 21 | Hobbes | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 21 | Hobbes | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 21 | Hobbes | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 28 | Locke | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 28 | Locke | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Oct 28 | Locke | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 4 | Marx and Engels | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 4 | Marx and Engels | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 4 | Marx and Engels | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 11 | DuBois | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 11 | DuBois | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 11 | DuBois | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 11 | DuBois | Reflection Essay #4 | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 18 | DeBeauvoir | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 18 | DeBeauvoir | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Nov 18 | DeBeauvoir | Discussion Post | 10 |  |
| Fri Dec 2 | hooks | Reading Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Dec 2 | hooks | Lecture Quiz | 10 |  |
| Fri Dec 2 | hooks | Discussion Post | 10 |  |

## Extra Credit Assignments

An extra credit assignment may be available during finals week.

# VALENCIA COLLEGE & INSTRUCTOR’S CLASSROOM POLICIES

For an extensive list of policies related to our course, please see the “Policies” section in your Canvas course.

## Student and Faculty Expectations

You can expect that I will be available to discuss any and all matters (through Canvas messages, Zoom sessions, emails, ect) related to our course throughout the semester. I will do my best to respond to messages within 24 hours and to have all submitted work graded within one week of its due date. You can also expect that I will grade all submissions without bias or consideration for any factors other than the quality of the work submitted.

I expect that you will be proactive in contacting me regarding any problems you think I can help with. I also expect that before sending questions about assignments or policies, you will review this syllabus and course policies described in Canvas to avoid asking for information which has already been provided. I further expect you to take personal responsibility for meeting deadlines and submitting your own original work for all assignments.

Additional course and institution policies are listed in Canvas.

## Disclaimer

The syllabus, assignments, and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

## Course Schedule

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Dates | Holidays | Readings |
| 1 | Aug 22 – Aug 26 |  | Plato – Apology (Originals, 3-17, OER) |
| 2 | Aug 29 – Sept 2 |  | Plato – Allegory of the Cave (Originals 111-115, OER) |
| 3 | Sept 6 – Sept 9 | Sept 5 | Aristotle – On Categories (Originals 125 – 128, OER) |
| 4 | Sept 12 – Sept 16 |  | Augustine - Confessions  Aquinas – Five Ways (Originals 152-153, OER) |
| 5 | Sept 19 – Sept 23 |  | Descartes – On Doubt and Certainty (Originals 25-33, OER) |
| 6 | Sept 26 – Sept 30 |  | Locke – On the Foundation of Knowledge (Originals 34-43, OER) Hume – On Empiricism (Originals 78-84, OER) |
| 7 | Oct 3 – Oct 7 |  | Kant – On The Sources of Knowledge (Originals 85-95, OER) |
| 8 | Oct 10 – Oct 14 |  | Nietzsche – Twilight of the Idols (**PDF**) |
| 9 | Oct 17 – Oct 21 |  | Hobbes – On the Social Contract (Originals 299-313, OER) |
| 10 | Oct 24 – Oct 28 |  | Locke – On Property and the Formation of Societies (Originals 314-329, OER) |
| 11 | Oct 31 – Nov 4 |  | Marx and Engels – On Communism (Originals 362-379, OER) |
| 12 | Nov 7 – Nov 11 | Nov 11 | Du Bois –The Souls of Black Folk (**PDF**) |
| 13 | Nov 14 – Nov 18 |  | DeBeauvoir – The Second Sex, Introduction (**PDF**) |
| 14 | Nov 21 – Nov 22 | Nov 23-27 | none |
| 15 | Nov 28 – Dec 2 |  | bell hooks – Theory as Liberatory Practice (**PDF**) |
| Final Exams | Dec 6 - 10 |  |  |
| Final Grades | Dec 12 |  |  |