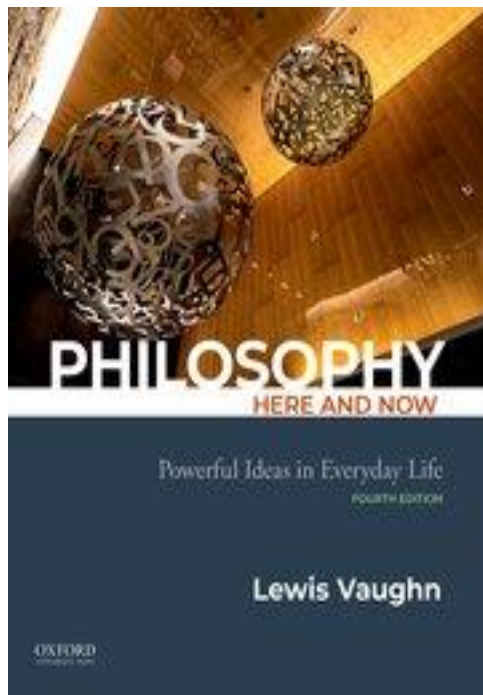


**PHI 2010-34044**  
**Philosophy**  
**TR 12:00 noon -3:45 pm**  
**Bldg. 1 – 326**

Dr. Albert Dale Truscott,  
Instructor

Email: [dtruscott@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:dtruscott@valenciacollege.edu)  
Office Hours: by appointment



**Course Description:** Philosophy: Contemporary problems introduce major areas of philosophy: metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, theories of knowledge and philosophy of religion. Students explore writings of notable philosophers, past and present, and examine how their ideas have shed light on problems and their relevance to modern life.

### **YOU MUST BE IN CLASS – ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance is necessary for successful completion of this course. Students are allowed ONE personal absences for free. There is no need to notify the instructor about the reason for this. After the second absence, the student will be required to meet IN PERSON with the instructor to determine whether to withdraw from the course or continue. This course only meets 12 times, so being in class is essential. The second absence will result in a 100-point penalty (1000 points in the course) IF the student is permitted to continue. Documented medical or other emergency situations will be considered by the instructor. For example, COVID symptoms must be verified by an antigen test, the results of which are available in 20 minutes. Illness, legal obligations, military obligations, deaths in the family, employment obligations can be excused if documented. Phrases like "family emergency" will not be excused without details and documentation.

In extreme situations where extended absences are necessary, negotiate with the instructor for a faculty withdrawal or for a D or F grade that may be eligible for grade forgiveness when the course is repeated. See the College rules about this.

**As of the college withdrawal-by-student date**, students in this class will receive the grade earned for the course. Students will not be permitted to secure a faculty withdrawal by not attending after the student withdrawal date.

- Students who do not come to class before May 18 will be withdrawn as NO SHOW. There is no refund of fees for NO SHOW withdrawals. However, see the attendance policy above, which allows only one unexcused absence.

Therefore, absences on May 10, 12, and/or 17 will already exceed the allowance.

- The attendance records of the instructor are the official record of attendance.
- *If I become ill, I will endeavor to notify the class. Please wait 20 minutes before leaving the classroom if I am not there.*
- Students not signed in within the first 15 minutes of class will be marked absent.
- This class meets for 3 hours and 45 minutes. There will be two or three breaks during this time.
- Students who leave class early for any reason and do not return will be marked absent for the day. Attendance will be taken after each break.
- Class time is a cell phone free space. Students who use cellphones in class will be marked absent. Students who leave the classroom during class for the purpose of using a cell phone, except during breaks, will be marked absent. Discuss any special need for cellphones with the instructor.
- Students may withdraw from this class up to the published deadlines for withdrawal with and without refund of fees.
- See the College Catalog for information about the effect of Withdrawals on your record.

- **WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?** Philosophy has been called "the study of human nature." It is the systematic, critical examination of the way in which we judge, evaluate, and act. Philosophy attempts to make us wiser, more self-reflective and, one would hope better women and men. Our text explores the areas of philosophy with an eye toward learning to be critical thinkers. As your instructor, I want you to be "turned on" to the fascinating questions and explorations of philosophy. I will challenge you to think, perhaps in ways you have not done before, to ask questions you have not previously considered, to push the boundaries of your mind. I do not promise it to be easy, but I promise that you can grow through this course in many ways.

- **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- 1. Be able to describe clearly what philosophy is and what are the issues and concerns of this discipline.
- 2. Be able to think critically about Value Theory (Axiology), understand the difference between how one "should" live and the issue of "rightness," and be able to apply these understandings to real life situations.
- 3. Be able to understand the ethical issues of justice and the various applications of theories of justice to the world we live in.
- 4. Be able to enter the "weirding" world of Epistemology and understand the basic questions of knowledge and their implications.
- 5. Have some sense of the scientific method and the search for truth.
- 6. Be able to grasp the basic questions surrounding existence and reality, freedom and determinism, the mind and body, the self, and the phenomenon of religion.

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- **COURSE CREDITS:** Three

- **Method of Instruction:** Philosophy 2010 is a lecture/discussion/participation course. Our class style will be interactive. Ask questions at any time, please. There are NO inappropriate questions. Careful note-taking during a lecture is essential. Recorders are welcomed. There will be a series of movie presentations by the students. It is

assumed that students will keep up with reading and other assignments according to the attached schedule.

- I am available to all students for consultations. Please feel free to ask to meet with me. Teaching is what I do. I love to be of help to students. I may ask for individual sessions with students experiencing difficulties.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

Vaughn, Lewis, *Philosophy Here and Now*, 4th Edition, Oxford, 2022. This book is available in print from the bookstore, the publisher, Oxford University Press in paper or as an eBook, or from other online sources. You must bring the book to class with you every day. I reserve the right to count you absent if you do not have the book with you. **There is a copy of the textbook on reserve in the Library to use for 4 hours at a time.** There are no excuses if you are unable to buy the textbook or if scholarship money is late. Use the Library copy. **If you decide to use an eBook, you MUST bring a laptop with you to class every day and you MUST have the battery charged. Any student with a computer caught using it for any other purpose than to look at the eBook and/or take notes will receive an F for the ENTIRE course.**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Read the Textbook. Bring it with you to class every day we meet. I reserve the right to mark a student absent if she/he does not have a textbook with them in class. Participate in class discussions both in groups and individually. I reserve the right to assess grade penalties to students who do not actively participate in the class discussions, Q and A, etc.**

**Bring paper and pen/pencil to class each session. We will do some in-class activities that need to be submitted on paper. Students without paper/notebooks and pen, or computer on which to take notes obviously don't care about what is happening in class. We will practice the art of taking notes.**

#### **Online Reflection Questions for Each Chapter**

In Canvas, you will find a Module containing a brief short answer quiz for each chapter of the book. It will be a selection of the Essay/Discussion Questions. These quizzes must be completed by the date and time indicated in Canvas, during the time we are studying that chapter in class. Essay/Discussion Question Quizzes will be available until the day of the Exam in Class for those chapters. Then they will disappear. Quizzes submitted after the due date but before the quiz become unavailable will receive ½ credit.

**These quizzes cannot be "made up" under any circumstances. Up to 160 points: 20 points for each chapter quiz.**

#### **Student Small Group Fiction Selections Projects**

There are Narrative or Fiction selections at the end of each chapter. Eight of them will be assigned (not chapter 9) to small groups of students selected at random. Students in each group will read the selection and prepare a group report to the class on the assigned date. In this report they will describe the reading in some detail and answer all of the "Probing Questions" that come after the reading in the textbook. Each student must speak. It is optional to prepare a Powerpoint to accompany the presentation. **IF THE GROUPS ARE MORE THAN ONE STUDENT**, each student in the group will submit a 2-page **individual** paper in Canvas covering the same assignment. They will automatically be checked for originality. Presentations should be about 15 minutes.

**Up to 120 points for the group presentation and the paper.**

### **Student Small Group Cinema Projects**

Students will be assigned to different random groups from the Fiction assignment. Each of these groups will be assigned a film to view that is related to the topic of the chapter assigned. The group will select a series of scenes/excerpts from the movie to show to the class with commentary about how this film expresses some of the general concerns of the selections of **that** chapter. Presentations should be 25 minutes. Each student must actively participate in the verbal presentation indicating a thorough reading of the articles from the chapter assigned and of the approach of the movie to those issues. Members of the group will be graded on how well prepared they are and how they participate in the presentation of the movie clips and the discussion of the topic. Preparation of a Powerpoint is NOT necessary for this assignment. *[The movies will be on reserve at the Media Desk in the Library and may be used IN the library only for limited time intervals. I will personally remove the movies from the library and bring them to class for the students to use in their presentations IF the group needs me to do so. If groups want to bring their own copies or rental copies of the same videos, they are free to do so and should notify me, so I don't have to get the library reserve copy. **Please know the time signature of each scene you are going to show so that you do not have to search for the scene.***

IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE STUDENT IN THE GROUP, each student in the group must submit a 2-3-page paper summarizing the entire film and describing the scenes that THE GROUP has chosen and their meaning and relationship to the topic of the chapter. These are separate and unique papers for each person. These papers are submitted in Canvas, which will check them for plagiarism.

**Up to 120 points for the group presentation and the paper.**

### **Four Examinations**

There will be four standardized examinations administered in Class on the dates in the Class Schedule. These will be multiple-choice, true-false, matching. A study guide will be available for each chapter online in a Canvas Module. **Requirements for exam make-ups or absences on exam days will be considerably more stringent than absences on non-examination days. Professionally documented materials will be necessary for any exam make-ups. 150 points each for examination, for a total of 600 points.**

**This course ends on July 16, the same day as Exam#4. There will be no way to make up exam #4 except if a student qualifies for an Incomplete grade.**

**Total points for the course: 1000**

**There is no comprehensive final examination for this course.**

**Extra Credit:** Because philosophy asks us to consider concepts in human life such as justice and societal structure, I offer the following: If you show written proof that you are registered to vote, you will receive **25 bonus points**. If you are not yet eligible to vote, or if you are not a citizen of the US or have some other reason that you cannot be a voter, you may show me proof of voting in another country or write a 2-page essay about the importance of a religious person participating in a democracy.

**NOTE: The fact that an exam is listed in Canvas for a certain day does NOT mean that this exam is available until the end of the day by some other means than in class. In class exams are IN CLASS at the class time.**

### **Exam and Grading Policy:**

900-1000 points = A

800-999 points = B

700-899 points = C

600-799 points = D

Below 600 points = F

**Student Conduct and Academic Honesty:**

- Exams and homework are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit.
- Students are responsible for preparing for class by reading pre-assigned readings and completing assignments. Students who are absent are fully responsible for all material covered in class.
- Students may *collaborate* on design and project issues. This does NOT include duplication of programs or designs. Collaboration should be used to find bugs in programs or to solve program syntax and general structure problems. Copying, regardless of the number of editor changes, renaming, and/or retyping is considered cheating, and a student's inability to describe the function of a submitted assignment will be considered evidence of cheating. All students involved in incidents of cheating will be given a zero ("0") for that assignment/quiz/exam/project without regard to who did the original work or who may have benefited.
- During exams and quizzes, students may not leave the room or receive phone calls.
- The instructor's phone and email are provided for emergency situations, such as missing an exam, and brief questions about specific assignments. Messages should consist of your name, your class and class time, and a brief message. Questions such as "What did we cover in class?" will not result in a response. Due to the problem of "phone tag", student phone calls will normally not be returned. Emails with specific questions will be answered as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours. Students who need more than a brief response should arrange a meeting with the instructor. A web site has been set up which contains schedule and assignment information as available.

**Expected Student Conduct:**

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

**Computer/Equipment Use Policy:**

- Use of computers in the Business, IT, and Public Services classrooms at Valencia Community College is restricted to those activities designated by the instructor to enhance the class materials. Any other use is strictly forbidden. Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to:
  - Use of computer to send E-mail or access Internet sites not specifically assigned in class.
  - Use of computer for job, internship, homework or other activities not assigned in class.
  - Modifying any hardware or software system configuration or setting.
  - Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct
- Use of computers in the Business Students open lab (Bldg. 2, Room 304) is limited to those activities involved with preparing homework or coursework in the IT or Business departments and is subject to the same restriction as listed above.
- Computer use is remotely monitored; any student using computers inappropriately may be subject to dismissal from class or banishment from the lab. Subsequent offense may be sent to the campus administration for further disciplinary action.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216.

**Disclaimer Statement**

As many factors may affect the development and progress of a class, the instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule as may be required to assure attainment of course objectives.

## COMPUTER AND EMAIL REQUIREMENTS

- You must have access to a computer with up-to-date operating software.
- You must have access to MS Word. Some students will want to use MS Power Point or Excel.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader, latest edition, is required to view pdf documents.
- You must have access to Canvas.
- You must have and use your Valencia email address to communicate with the instructor or students. Please put PHI 2010 + CRN number, <your last name>, <the subject of your email,> in the Subject Line.
- **You MUST a Valencia email account and check it daily. This will be the ONLY email address that I can use to communicate with you. Canvas notifications will come to your email as well as in Canvas. Watch for Announcements in Canvas, too.**

**IF AND ONLY IF YOU HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO AN eBook or wish to take class notes on your computer, YOU MAY BRING YOUR LAPTOP TO CLASS WITH YOU and YOU MUST SIT IN A FRONT ROW AND OPERATE WITH BATTERY ONLY. Anyone using a laptop for any other reason than to look at the text and/or to take class notes will receive an "F" for the ENTIRE course. NO CELL PHONES MAY BE USED FOR ANY REASON DURING THE CLASS. PUT THEM ON SILENT. DO NOT LOOK AT THEM. If you do, you will be counted absent for the day.** (Exceptions to the cell phone rule will be on a case-by-case basis, e.g. nurses on call, children in day care, etc.)

### Class Calendar

Date	Chapter	Movie Presentations	Chapter Reflection Quizzes	Group Fiction Selection Projects	Exams
5/10		Introduction to the Course, Movie Presentation, Syllabus Review Chapter 1			
5/12	1-2	<b>[OMIT 2.6 Eastern Religions]</b>		Group 1-Plato	
5/17	2-3	<i>Bruce Almighty</i> - Group 2 <b>[OMIT 3.8 Confucianism]</b>	Chapter 1 Quiz in Canvas due	Group 2-Clark	
5/19	3	<i>Crimes and Misdemeanors</i> - Group 3	Chapter 2 Quiz in Canvas due	Group 3-Le Guin	<b>Exam 1 Chapters 1,2</b>
5/24	4-5	<i>Being John Malkovich</i> - Group 4	Chapter 3 Quiz in Canvas due	Group 4-Bisson	
5/26	5	<i>The Minority Report</i> - Group 5	Chapter 4 Quiz in Canvas due	Group 5-Davis	<b>Exam #2 Chapters 3,4</b>
5/31	6		Chapter 5 Quiz in Canvas due		
6/2	6	<i>The Matrix</i> - Group 6 <i>Waking Life</i> - Group 6		Group 6-Carroll	

6/7	7	<i>What the Bleep Do We Know</i>	Chapter 6 Quiz in Canvas due		<b>Exam #3 Chapters 5,6</b>
6/9	7-8	<i>Loving Vincent - Group 7</i>		Group 7-Poe	
6/14	8	<i>Where Invade Next - Group 8</i>	Chapter 7 Quiz in Canvas due	Group 8-Golding	
6/16			Chapter 8 Quiz in Canvas due		<b>Exam #4 Chapter 7, 8</b>

### **Study Recommendations**

1. Read the ENTIRE chapter BEFORE coming to class the first day that chapter is discussed. You WILL be expected to be able to respond in class discussions and you may be called upon at random. Highlight or take notes on the chapter content. Do NOT leave out the boxed articles and margin quotes. Discover the author's outline and use it to frame your reading notes or highlights.
2. Take notes in class. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, and it is an essential higher learning skill that you should master.
3. Read the chapter once or twice more before taking an exam on the material. Review class notes to discover what the instructor has emphasized. Review your journal entries. If your group reported on this chapter, review the paper you wrote.
4. Get plenty of rest before taking an exam. The human mind works better that way.
5. Do NOT cram immediately before an exam. You run the risk of scrambling your memories.