**PHI 2010 – PHILOSOPHY**

Fall 2022

**Professor**: Jeffrey S. Orlando

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**Office location:** Bldg 1-147

**Office hours:** By email  jorlando1@valenciacollege.edu or appointment only.

**Course Content**

Philosophy is the pursuit of wisdom and understanding. This course will be a survey of fundamental questions in the philosophical tradition. Some of the topics we will be addressing include: Identity (the nature of the mind/consciousness), Free Will (choice & responsibility), Metaphysics (the nature of reality), Epistemology (knowledge and truth), Aesthetics (the nature of beauty, and artistic value) and Social & Political ideologies (justice, liberty, etc).

**Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this class, you will be able to:

- Identify key philosophical arguments that dominate Western thought

- Articulate contributions of notable thinkers in historical context, past and present

- Use critical thinking skills to examine personal convictions on a variety of beliefs

**Educational Materials**

Text: **Philosophy Here and Now, 4th Edition**; Lewis Vaughn

Supplemental readings posted in Canvas

**Assessment Methods and Evaluation**

Grade scale - 100-90 **A**, 89.99-80 **B**, 79.99-70 **C**, 69.99-60 **D**, 59.99-0 **F**

**Tests**: 70% - (4). The first three tests given are each worth 15% of your overall grade each. The fourth test will be your Final Exam and it is worth 25% of your overall grade for this course. If you miss the due date for one of the first 3 tests, I will allow for a make-up test under certain conditions. Namely, the make-up must be taken **within a week of the original test date**. You must reach out to me within this week. If this presents a problem, we will have to discuss the matter. **There is no extension for taking the final exam.** Final grades must be calculated and submitted urgently during finals week.

**Reflection papers**: 20% - (5). A reflection paper is a chance for you to reflect on a topic we are covering in class and share your insights and opinions without judgment. These papers will be vital to demonstrating your acquisition of philosophical concepts we encounter. For full credit, they should be at least 250 words in length each, typed. **If it is less than 250 words, you’ll receive partial or no credit.**The papers should also represent a philosophical view in a scholarly sense, rather than aimless rambling. Each paper is worth 5% of your overall grade. You are only responsible for doing 4 of these. If you decide not to do these papers, it will ruin your final grade. You can choose to do all five, and drop the one with the lowest grade, or you can skip one of the topics. No extra credit given for doing all five, but I encourage doing all 5 if you are compelled by the topic. I enjoy reading these! The papers assigned will be due on the date indicated in Canvas. **Late papers are not accepted**. **Late papers are not accepted**. **Late papers are not accepted**. If you miss one, then that can be the one you drop.

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**Class participation** 10% - I expect you to contribute to class, having read the assigned readings and prepared to engage in discussion*.*We will be covering a variety of interesting and engaging topics, some of which will inspire as well as challenge you. At times, there may be ideas or opinions related to the material that you do not agree with. I expect everyone to conduct themselves in a civilized manner. I do not expect you to have studied academic philosophy prior to taking this class. Therefore asking questions and clarifying ideas is a necessary part of the learning process, and other students can benefit from the questions you might ask. **To get full credit, you must speak up in class or contribute to a Discussion Board post at least once each week.**For the online posts, you may post an original thought, or respond to myself or another student. Your post must be more in depth than a single sentence or a quick remark such as "I agree with what he said." I enter participation credit at the end of the term. Let there be no surprises.

**Attendance** - You are expected to be present each week, in class. **Interacting with me and others in the Discussion Board is encouraged but it is not a substitute for coming to class.**If you disappear for a while, then hope to chime in just enough at the end to get full credit, you will lose points and possibly fail the course.

For severe medical conditions that result in excessive absences, consult the Dean of Students concerning Valencia’s medical withdrawal policy.

**Illness/Emergency provision:** If you are unable to participate in the course due to illness, family emergency, etc., please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan to complete any missed assignments so that your learning can progress in your course. In the case of a prolonged online absence, please communicate with me as soon as possible in order to create a plan for the best course of action.

International students, and students receiving financial aid, should be aware of how a “W” will affect their status.

 [http://international.valenciacollege.edu/current-students/maintaining-visa-status/ (Links to an external site.)](http://international.valenciacollege.edu/current-students/maintaining-visa-status/)

 [http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory\_progress.cfm (Links to an external site.)](http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm)

**How to be successful in this course:**

\*Obtain the textbook as soon as possible. Be prepared, having read the assigned material before we begin each new unit of study.

Read and reread sections that are confusing. If you don’t get it, do not give up! Some of the material will be challenging. If you skim or skip readings, you’ll be behind quickly. Make notes about anything you don’t understand, and ask questions for clarification. Message your classmates and exchange notes and study together if your schedule allows for it.

**No-show procedure**Any student who does not attend class **prior to the start** of the no-show reporting period for each part of term will be withdrawn by the instructor as a no-show.  This will count as an attempt in the class, and students will be liable for tuition.  If your plans have changed and you will not be attending this class, please drop yourself through your Atlas account during the drop period for this part of the term.

**Drop / Withdrawal** You have until**Aug 30th** to drop this Fall 2022 course. After this date, a voluntary exit from the class is considered a withdrawal. The withdrawal deadline is **Nov 3rd**. If you decide not to continue coming to class and do not properly withdraw yourself in Atlas by the deadline, you will receive a grade for the amount of work you’ve completed. Due to the weight of the final, this is likely to be a failing grade.

**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.

**Presence:**Be present! We are online, but you still have the ability to be present with your online engagement. Find your way into the course as curious student who is ready to learn and greet challenging ideas with courage and commitment.

**Contact**: You can speak to me before or after class, or you'd need to contact me by email. ALWAYS use Canvas or your Atlas email when sending me anything via email. I ask that you put ‘PHI 2010’ and the CRN (course registration number of your section) in the subject line.

**Intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity:**As your professor, I’m committed to giving you as many opportunities and resources to support your learning as possible. Therefore, you may find it beneficial to record class lectures to review later. Please keep in mind that you do not have your peers’ permission to record them, and they have a right to privacy; your peers should not be in your recordings. **You may not record class discussions, student presentations, labs, group work, and private conversations.** These recordings are permitted for your own personal use; you should contact me to discuss sharing options. Note that while these recordings are useful for review, we want you to attend class for your insights and questions; these recordings are not substitutes for class participation and attendance. Should you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me through Atlas email or Canvas message.

**Personal Counseling:**In the event you find yourself overwhelmed with school or life in general, **BayCare**is a behavioral health resource you can use free of charge. The confidential toll-free line is (800) 878-5470. Additionally, there are 4 full-time counselors working on campus whom you may meet with to discuss personal matters of any kind.

**Support for students with food/housing/financial needs:**

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect his or her performance in the course, is urged to meet with a Counselor in the Advising Center for information about resources that may be available from the college or community.

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