**Course Syllabus**

**Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy**

**Course Prefix: PHI2010**

**Spring 2021**

**Instructor Name: Karen Olesch Forrester**

**Valencia College e-mail address: koleschforrester@valenciacollege.edu**

**Office Location and Hours: Mondays** from 12pm-2pm EST and by appointment (text, email, phone, zoom)

Zoom info for Office Hours - please note that you may have to wait in the waiting room until I am finished with another student. I will let you in as soon as we are finished.

Join Zoom Meeting https://nl.zoom.us/j/98512462691

**Faculty Response**: Class emails will be answered within 24 hours. It is recommended that you post class-related questions in the discussion area. Other students may have the same questions as you or may even be able to answer your questions. If you need information related to a test or assignment, plan ahead and submit your questions in advance of the due date.

Grades for all work will be posted within 5 days after the close of each week.

**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.

**Core Competencies:** Valencia faculty have defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, ACT) that prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the College Catalog. In this course, through lecture and discussion, group work, and other learning activities, you will further develop your mastery of those competencies.

**Course Text:**Lewis Vaughn's *Philosophy Here and Now* / Oxford University Press / ISBN: 978-0190852344 / 3rd Edition

**Course Format:** Online

**Technology Updates: Please review the checklist for this course:**

* Microsoft Office (which includes Microsoft Word for writing essays)—download from Valencia’s Atlas webpage.
* Verify that your computer meets system and browser requirements: [System and Browser RequirementsLinks to an external site.](http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/getting-started-online/system-requirements.cfm)
* Update your computer as needed so that you may complete coursework: [Update Your ComputerLinks to an external site.](http://valenciacollege.edu/oit/learning-technology-services/student-resources/getting-started-online/system-requirements.cfm)

Ability to make audio/video presentations (webcam/microphone)

**Attendance:** During the first week of class, you must complete the **Orientation Quiz** and **Introduction Discussion** in the course to verify attendance. Simply logging into the course will not satisfy your attendance during this time. 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. Students must use a computer with reliable internet access because excuses or failure to complete assessments due to computer error will not be permitted.

**Participation**

Regular, active, and meaningful participation in online learning activities is an important component of this class and is essential to your success. Logging into the class does not count towards participation and attendance.  You must actively participate in class activities by completing discussions, assignments, and assessments.  It is recommended to check your email, the announcements, and class discussions regularly. Your day of last attendance is based on the last day you completed a documented class activity.

The following are academically related activities for the purpose of participation and attendance:

* Participation in a graded discussion board
* Quiz/exam attempt
* Assignment submission

Lack of regular participation may result in failure of the course.

**Make-Up Policy for Examinations and All Other Assignments: Late work is accepted for full points in an emergency.** 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 this 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.

**Late work is accepted for a reduction in points in a non-emergency situation.**

**Discussions – deduction of 10% per day late until the close of the week. Discussions are not accepted after the week that they are due.**

**Assignments, quizzes, and exams (except for the final exam)– deduction of 10% per day. If your assignment is more than 5 days late, you will receive an automatic 50%.**

**The final exam cannot be accepted late.**

**Any Assignment that receives a D or an F can be revised for a higher grade.**

**Course Schedule**

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| Module | Meeting Date or Online | Major Topics | Course Component/Assignment(s) | Assignments Due |
| Orientation | Online | Course Orientation | Syllabus Quiz  Introduction Discussion | Orientation Quiz - due by Tuesday 11:59 PM ET  Introduction Discussion – due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET. |
| 1 | Online | Chapter 1 Philosophy and You | Discussion: Introduction / Icebreaker  Discussion 1 – Philosophy and You  Assignment: Philosophical Beliefs questionnaire  Quiz 1 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.  Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.  Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.  Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 2 | Online | Chapter 2 God and Religion | Discussion 2 – God and Religion    Assignment: 1 Page Reflection paper    Quiz 2 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 3 | Online | Chapter 3 Morality and the Moral Life | Discussion 3 – Morality and the Moral Life    Assignment: Case Study    Quiz 3 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 4 | Online | Chapter 4 Mind and Body | Discussion 4 – Mind and Body    Assignment: Definitions    Quiz 4 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 5 | Online | Chapter 5 Free will and determinism | Discussion 5 – Free Will and Determinism    Assignment: Research someone famous    Quiz 5 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 6 | Online | Chapter 6 Knowledge and Skepticism | Discussion 6 – Knowledge and Skepticism    Assignment: The Feminist Perspective    Quiz 6 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 7 | Online | Chapter 7 Aesthetics | Discussion 7 - Aesthetics    Assignment: Art Evaluation Worksheet    Quiz 7 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 8 | Online | Chapter 8 The Just Society | Discussion 8 – The Just Society    Assignment: Collective Archive    Quiz 8 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET   . |
| 9 | Online | Chapter 9 The Meaning of Life | Discussion 9 – The Meaning of Life    Assignment: Rough Draft of Final Paper    Quiz 9 | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Quiz due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |
| 10 | Online | Finals Week | Discussion: Flipgrid presentation    Assignment: Final Paper    Final Exam | Discussions Initial posts due by Wednesday 11:59 PM ET.    Response posts due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET.    Written Assignments due by Friday 11:59 PM ET.    Final Exam due by Sunday 11:59 PM ET |

**How your Grade will be Determined**

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| **Assessment** | **Graded Points** |
| Module Discussions: 11 @ 20 pts. each | 220 |
| Module Assignments: 10 @ 50 pts. each | 500 |
| Module Quizzes: 9 @ 20 pts. Each | 180 |
| Final Exam: 50 questions @ 2 pts. each | 100 |
| Final Paper | 100 |
| **Total** | **1100** |

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| **Grading Scale** | |
| **Grades** | **Percentage** |
| Grade = A | 90-100+% |
| Grade = B | 80-89.9% |
| Grade = C | 70-79.9% |
| Grade = D | 60-69.9% |
| Grade = F | 59.9%-0.0% |

**Discussion Board Rubric:**

Detailed instructions for the discussions are found in the course orientation section of the course.

**Assignments**

Detailed instructions for the written assignments are found in the course orientation section of the course.

**Quizzes and Exams**

Please allow ample time to complete quizzes and exams and be observant of the time limit. Make sure you have a solid internet connection. Most online quiz and exam grades will be available after finishing the quiz or exam.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**

Policy Statement:

1. All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.
2. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged.

* First offense: Discussion with Instructor and Resubmit work. Second offense: Automatic 0 on assignment. Third Offense: Automatic failure of class and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

**Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program**

Include this statement, which is useful to students in need of private counseling:

“*Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. Students have 24 hour unlimited access to the* ***Baycare Behavioral Health’s confidential student assistance program*** *phone counseling services by calling* ***(800) 878-5470****. Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.”*

**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.*

**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.