**Valencia College**

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy, CRN# 14470 (11:30) or 15270 (10:00)

Credit Hours: 3.0

Pre-Requisites: none

Term: Fall Semester 2022

Meet Ups: TR, Building 1, Room 154

Meet Ups: F, Building 1, Room 111

Time(s): 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. / 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

I reserve the right to modify this Syllabus

Contact Information

Instructor: Manuel-Albert F. Castillo

Email: [mcastillo28@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:mcastillo28@valenciacollege.edu)

Cell #:  407-575-8220

Office Hours: By **Appointment** (Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays); also 15 minutes before and after class. Building 6, 3rd Floor, Room 230 at the Center of Teaching/Learning Innovation.

Important Dates

8/23: First class session starts (TR)

8/26: First class session starts (F)

8/29:  Add/Drop & Refunds ends.

8/31 - 9/10:  No Show Reporting Period.

10/28:  Last day to withdraw from class to receive a "W" grade.

12/8:  Final Exam class session 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (T&R)

12/9:  Final Exam class session 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (F)

12/11:  Course closes

12/13:  Grades are available through Atlas

Catalogue Description

Students are introduced to metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion. Students will explore the writings of notable philosophers, past and present, and examine how their ideas are relevant to modern life.

Course Objectives

* To introduce philosophical contents and skills.
* To explore diverse theories and perspectives.
* To compare and contrast theories.
* To define ideas, anticipate objections, and construct arguments.
* To think critically and historically about ideas regarding morality, society, reality, knowledge, and religion.
* To put philosophical theories into practice.

General Education

*Cultural & Historical Understanding*

* Recognize how philosophy has transformed throughout history.
* Recognize the history of ideas: who influenced other philosophers or non-philosophers.

*Ethical Responsibility*

* Reflect what philosophy means to you on a personal, academic, institutional, and professional level.
* Apply philosophical concepts in your daily lives.

*Critical Thinking*

* Understand that philosophers still question what Philosophy is; this is called meta-philosophy.
* Recognize philosophy can be interdisciplinary, which means there are critical thinking skills that can apply to other disciplines (e.g. STEM, education, nursing, law, etc.)

*Communication & Literacy Skills*

* Improve and develop your skills in reading, writing, and research.
* Engage in intellectual conversations with civility and open-mindedness.

Valencia College Core Values

Think – think clearly, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in the many domains of human inquiry.

Value – make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments.

Communicate – communicate with different audiences using varied means.

Act – act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly.

Textbook

*Philosophizing: Creating a World of Ideas* (2nd edition) by Andrew Alexander

You can get it through:

Valencia College Online Campus Store: [https://www.valenciabookstores.com/buy\_book\_detail.asp?pf\_id=10607886 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.valenciabookstores.com/buy_book_detail.asp?pf_id=10607886)

Amazon:  [https://www.amazon.com/Philosophizing-Creating-World-Andrew-Alexander/dp/1524976148 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.amazon.com/Philosophizing-Creating-World-Andrew-Alexander/dp/1524976148)

Kendall Hunt Publishing:  [https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/philosophizing-creating-world-ideas (Links to an external site.)](https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/philosophizing-creating-world-ideas)

Sections

* Introduction to Philosophy
* Ethics
* Political Philosophy
* Metaphysics & Epistemology
* Philosophy of Religion

Tasks

Here are FIVE different tasks that are required to fully understand and pass the course.

**1.  Assignments**

These are reading comprehension assignments that are *based* on the textbook and my lectures presented in class. Carefully read the directions and fully answer the questions in complete sentences. Assignments are to be answered short (1-3 paragraphs, 3-5 sentences) within the word count; each assignment varies. You may use your lecture notes, textbook, powerpoints, and any external links searched. Make sure to provide your sources/links and citations if you quote from the textbook.

\*Some good search sources:

* Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy ([https://iep.utm.edu/ (Links to an external site.)](https://iep.utm.edu/))
* Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy ([https://plato.stanford.edu/ (Links to an external site.)](https://plato.stanford.edu/))

**2.  Attendance/Participation**

This is a face-to-face interaction. Attendance is important for you to learn the philosophers' ideas, engage in intellectual discussions, demonstrate your skills, and ask questions for clarifications. In addition, I will take attendance each class session.

**BE AWARE**: this course is an open forum. Whatever beliefs and thoughts expressed may be questioned through our discussions. This is not an attack on you, but it is a learning process because we're all here to learn.

**3. & 4.  Midterm and Final Exam**

You have approximately a week or so to work on your midterm and final exams. The questions are based on your textbook, lecture notes, and assignments. Please manage your time; you will have multiple attempts in which the exam will take your **highest** grade. Midterm covers half the term (e.g. the first 7 weeks) and the Final is cumulative, meaning it covers all topics (e.g. the whole term).

**5.  Paper**

There is only 1 paper required in this course. Pick a book (fiction or non-fiction) that you ENJOY. It is not a book report, but it is PART of the paper. I can help each person generate some ideas on how they can explain, illustrate, and argue for their paper. In Muriel Spark’s The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1961), Ms. Brodie explains that, "*To me education is a leading out of what is already there in the pupil's soul. To Miss Mackay it is a putting in of something that is not there, and that is not what I call education, I call it intrusion."*

Grading Rubric

Grading Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60

* Please note that your grades are based on **POINTS**. There will be no curve. For example: if you receive a 69.30 % on your overall grade, I cannot just give you the 0.70%. It means you missed a lot of your assignments, participation, etc. ALL assignments are important for you to pass this course.

* **DISCLAIMER**: I DO NOT give Completes (C) and Incompletes (I). Any requests for Incompletes - due to EXTREME circumstances - must be given authorization by the Department of Arts and Humanities (Building 5, Room 146). Here is their contact:
  + Chair: Lisa Lippitt ([llippitt@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:llippitt@valenciacollege.edu))
  + Dean: Ana J. Caldero, #407-582-1431

Assignments

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point Deductions | Explanations |
| - 40, -30 | Missing or Not Turned In |
| - 15, - 10 | Only one of the questions has been answered |
| - 5, - 4, - 3, - 2, - 1 | Did not identify which question was being answered  Missing a major detail or details (this varies from assignments)  Did not answer in complete sentences (1-3 paragraphs, 3-5 sentences)  Assignment under given word count |

Paper

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point Deductions | Explanations |
| - 100 | Missing Work or Not Turned In |
| - 50 | No Book Report (Part I)  No Philosophic Connections (Part II) |
| - 15, - 10, - 5 | Turned in LATE after DUE date  Inconsistent grammar and spelling  Missing sources and/or citations  Incorrect use of the philosopher's idea  When connecting philosophic ideas to the book, saying it is "ethical, political, metaphysical, or religious" does **NOT** argue:  illustrate, or explain what you learned.  You must be **SPECIFIC** by identifying which philosopher's theory you are using. |

**IMPORTANT**: For your paper and assignments, use Microsoft Word file (.doc/.docx), Adobe Reader (.pdf), or rich type file (.rtf).

**NO** Mac/Apple or other system files of .odt, .zip, .wps, google, or .pages.  Please convert to .pdf or .rtf.

\*\*\*Also, I require you to submit your assignments online only once; you may only resubmit until I direct you. You CANNOT re-submit after I have given you my comments.

Late & Missing Work Policy

Use the Canvas Calendar tool. Watch for the 3 dates:

\*  Availability/Open -- when work opens  
\*  Due -- when work is Due, without Late points  
\*  Until -- with late points. There is a deadline, when work closes, and you cannot get to it any more.

If your assignment is late, then the Grade Book automatically puts it as a "0" UNTIL I grade the assignment.

Both Midterm and Final Exams must be completed before the UNTIL date.

You have THREE (3) weeks TOTAL from the time Assignments open UNTIL they close for good. PAY ATTENTION to DUE AND UNTIL dates on Canvas.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Up to 6 days late | 1 week late | 2 weeks late | 3 weeks late | Attempt to submit later |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 10 | F: I will not accept |

You may also request that I look at individual issues if you cannot turn assignments like illness, accidents, home care, funerals, hospitalizations, etc., **with some type of dated documentation** for my *explicit* consent.  This is due to the difficulty of changing within Canvas, keeping track, and to the unfairness to those who do work on time.

**DISCLAIMER**: If you have decided which assignments to do, or not to do your paper, then you will get the grade you earned. Remember: grades are determined by POINTS; EVERY assignment COUNTS. It is NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY if you CHOSE not to do the work.

Students with Disability

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 they 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/osdLinks to an external site.](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/osd)

Advising & Counseling

I am ONLY an instructor. You can ask me anything about the course topics, assignments, paper, late work policy, etc.

If you need assistance about your GPA or Financial Aid, I highly recommend you seek advising in SSB (Student Service Building) with Academic Counselors and the Financial Aid Office.

Academic Advising: [https://valenciacollege.edu/students/advising-counseling/Links to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/advising-counseling/)

Financial Aid: [https://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/Links to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/)

Writing Center

Here's the link for the West Campus Writing Center - you can make an appointment online or face-to-face: [https://valenciacollege.edu/students/learning-support/west/communications/writing-center/index.phpLinks to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/learning-support/west/communications/writing-center/index.php)

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)

Valencia College has a firm commitment to protecting the privacy rights of its students. In making this commitment, the College wants to ensure that all faculty and staff are familiar with state and federal laws pertaining to student privacy, as well as College policies and procedures that have been implemented to help guarantee student privacy.

Here is the link: <https://valenciacollege.edu/about/ferpa/>

Unlike in grade school (K-12), STUDENTS are the responsible parties in college.  I can NOT communicate with parents under any circumstances UNLESS FERPA documentation has been filled out.  I have to check with my Dean to clarify if it has.  So, do NOT have parent/s contact me at all without doing this first.

Baycare Behavioral Health -- Student Assistance Program

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.

Equal Opportunity

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by Valencia College.

Affirmative Action

Valencia College adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity, equity, and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

Student Conduct & Academic Honesty

*Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules of appropriate behavior as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Faculty may direct students who engage in inappropriate behavior that results in disruption of a class to leave the class. Such students may be subject to other disciplinary action which may include a warning, withdrawal from class, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college. Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.*

Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct website: [https://valenciacollege.edu/about/general-counsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-03-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdfLinks to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/general-counsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-03-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf)

**DISCLAIMER**: In my class, there is a zero-tolerance policy concerning plagiarism. It is an automatic failure in your grade, and you will be given a "0".

* To learn more about plagiarism, visit this link: [https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/departments/arts-humanities-west/writing/plagiarism.phpLinks to an external site.](https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/departments/arts-humanities-west/writing/plagiarism.php)

HB (House Bill) 233

Students may record video and/or audio of class lectures for their personal use. Recordings may be a useful tool to support your learning and provide a resource for review. It is important to be respectful of your peers’ rights to privacy; with that in mind, please refrain from recording your peers during lectures. You may not record class discussions, student presentations, labs, group work, and private conversations. Further, you may not publish or share recordings without my written consent, nor may you provide recordings to classmates as a substitution for class participation and attendance. If necessary, I will handle violations of this section through the College’s Student Code of Conduct.

Withdrawing Class

A student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of October 28th, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. will receive a grade of “W.” A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member's class up to the beginning of the final exam period, for violation of the faculty member's attendance policy, as published in the faculty member's syllabus. 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.

I WILL NOT withdraw you.  You need to do this YOURSELF.

No Show

According to Valencia's no-show policy, class attendance is required beginning with the first class meeting. If you do not attend the first class meeting, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show.” Students who are not actively participating in a class and/or do not submit the first assignment by the scheduled due date must be withdrawn by the instructor at the end of the second week as a "no show". If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of “W” will appear on your transcript for the course.