PHI 2010: Philosophy
Online
Professor Ralf Jenne

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ralf Jenne
Telephone: 407-582-1493
Email: Please use Canvas email
Office: West Campus, Building 5, Room 239
Student Engagement Hours: Accessible from the Canvas course home page

You MUST use Canvas email ('Inbox' icon in course navigation) to communicate with the instructor and with each other. Messages sent via Canvas email will be answered within 24 hours, except on weekends, holidays, or when the college is closed. Do NOT use the instructor's Valencia email (rjenne@mail.valenciacollege.edu), except in emergencies when Canvas is unavailable. NEVER email from a private email account, such as Yahoo Mail or Gmail.

Student Engagement Hours ('Office Hours') are subject to change. Any such change will be announced, and the 'Student Engagement Hours' listing on the Canvas course home page will be updated accordingly.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
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.

Credits
3 credits

Prerequisites
None

COURSE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Course Topics
This course will cover the following topics:
- Rational Explanation and Pre-Socratic Philosophy
- Socrates, Plato
- Aristotle
- Philosophy in the Middle Ages
- Continental Rationalism and British Empiricism
- Hume's Skepticism and the Kantian Synthesis
- Utilitarianism and Moral Rationalism
- Social Contract Theories and Marxism
- Analytic Philosophy
- Philosophical Movements in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Please note that the selection of topics covered in this course follows Florida state and Valencia College guidelines and that the presentation and examination of potentially controversial ideas or arguments does not in any way imply the endorsement of such ideas or arguments on the part of the instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes
- Students will identify assumptions and implications of philosophical arguments and perspectives.
- Students will define philosophical concepts.
- Students will evaluate philosophical arguments and perspectives for coherence and plausibility.
- Students will construct philosophical arguments.

Course Materials and Resources
There is no textbook for this course. All course materials and resources are provided from within the individual learning modules of our Canvas course.

COURSE INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Technology Requirements
- Active Valencia Atlas email account
- Reliable, high-speed internet access
- Microsoft Word software (free download of Microsoft Office through Atlas)
- Internet browser (Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari)

In order to successfully complete our course, you need to have reliable access to a properly configured computer or tablet. You should verify computer software and hardware requirements so as to make sure that your coursework can be submitted successfully. In order to use a mobile device it is highly recommended that you download the Student Canvas App.

You also need to be competent in using a word-processing program (Microsoft Word) for creating discussion posts and completing reading assignments. You need to know how to use Canvas to submit your discussion posts (and replies) as well as your reading assignments.

Professor Expectations
You can expect me to:
- respond to (Canvas) emails within 24 hours, except on weekends, holidays, or when the college is closed.
- make myself available to you during scheduled Student Engagement Hours (and do my best to be available outside these hours as well).
- provide meaningful feedback in our Opening Discussions, including individual responses to (some) student posts as well as general feedback comments immediately after the discussions close.
- grade your Reading Assignments within (at most) one week and provide meaningful feedback tailored to your individual needs.
- work with you individually (by appointment) to help you succeed in our course.

Student Expectations
You are expected to:
- adhere to all course policies explained below.
- carefully follow the directions provided for all learning activities.
- complete all learning activities (graded and non-graded) in the order required and by the deadlines specified.
- take initiative and contact me immediately if you experience difficulties of any kind in our course.
- assume your share of responsibility for the successful completion of our course.

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POLICIES

Online Learning and Commitment Required
This online course is highly structured and requires you to complete various learning activities within specific timeframes. While one of the big advantages of online courses is the flexibility to fit the coursework into your schedule, you need to make sure to keep up with the scheduled coursework and manage your time accordingly. This is especially important, because the timeframes and deadlines for all graded activities (discussions, reading assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.) are absolutely firm and strictly enforced. You will NOT be able to 'make up' a missed discussion, reading assignment, quiz, or test.

Please understand that it is your responsibility to ensure that you are ready for online learning and competent in the use of the Canvas course management system. This includes appropriate hardware and software, and reliable high-speed internet connection. Our course includes an Orientation Module designed to get you properly prepared for our course. Please use the first week of the semester to sort out any technical issues you might encounter. Please review Valencia's Canvas Resources for additional information about the Canvas learning management system.

The course is organized into learning modules. The learning modules contain several components and include several activities that must be completed in a specific order and - for graded activities - by the deadlines specified in the course calendar. The multitude of materials contained in the learning modules allows you to actively interact with the material in a collaborative environment, which makes the learning experience more meaningful, relevant, and fun.

Please understand that our online course requires the same commitment as a traditional classroom course. In order to be able to successfully complete this course, it is important that you schedule enough time for study and review. As per the Valencia College Student Handbook, a three (3) credit course requires a total commitment of about nine (9) hours per week. For face-to-face and mixed mode classes, this includes the time spent in the classroom.

As a college-level class, our course requires college-level reading and writing skills. If you struggle with reading comprehension or writing, it is your responsibility to seek help and make use of the resources offered by the college. It is important that you take the initiative to seek out the instructor's help, should you have any questions or concerns, or if you encounter difficulties of any kind. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during student engagement hours for additional feedback on quizzes, tests, assignments, etc., or for general advice on how to successfully complete our course. Also, please review Valencia's Learning Support Resources.

POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Online Attendance and Participation
In order to successfully complete our online course, you must log into our course on a regular basis and complete all learning activities during the scheduled timeframes listed in the course calendar.

As all course communication is conducted using Canvas, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check course announcements and your Canvas email on a daily basis.

According to Valencia's 'Program Integrity and Documentation of Online Course Attendance' guidelines, you must show attendance. Merely logging into an online course does NOT constitute attendance. Online course attendance is established by the completion of an 'academically-related activity.' In our case, you MUST complete the non-graded but mandatory Orientation Module Review Quiz by the deadline specified in the course calendar, or you will be withdrawn from the course as a no-show AFTER the Drop/Refund deadline (listed in the course calendar). Please review Valencia's Class Attendance policy for more information.

Open, honest, respectful, and inclusive discussions are essential for an optimum learning experience. You are expected to not only fulfill the minimum requirements for the completion of graded discussions, but you are also strongly encouraged to work collaboratively with your classmates, using the tools provided in the course.

Student Conduct
In order to facilitate meaningful class discussion, you are expected to behave as responsible adults and conduct yourself in a civilized and respectful manner at all times. The term 'netiquette' is used to describe the code of conduct in electronic environments. Please review Valencia's Netiquette and Student Conduct guidelines. Violation of netiquette guidelines, general student conduct guidelines, and/or Valencia policies will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action.

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POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Use of AI
All your work submitted in our course must be the product of your own original thoughts supported and informed by appropriately documented and credited sources. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, thoughts, etc. without appropriate and correct documentation. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating on tests, etc. will not be tolerated.

The use of AI-generated responses and essays is strictly prohibited in this course unless otherwise explicitly approved by your instructor. AI includes "any kind of artificial computational system that employs complex behavior…used to satisfy the Learning Outcomes of a course or lesson" (Vincent C. Muller). ChatGPT, for instance, is an AI. Any assignment in violation of this policy will receive the punishments as specified in the Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism policy.

In cases of plagiarism or use of AI, a first offense will result in a grade of '0' for the assignment. A second offense will result in a grade of 'F' for the course, and the student will be reported to the dean of the Arts and Humanities department. Please review Valencia's Academic Integrity guidelines and Plagiarism Resources.

Make-up Policy
The deadlines for all graded work are strictly enforced. The deadlines for discussions, reading assignments, quizzes, and tests will **NOT** be extended, except under the following circumstances and only with proper documentation: severe illness or hospitalization, natural disasters, and certain types of family emergencies (death of a family member, a family member undergoing major surgery, COVID-19 related situations, etc.) Deadlines will also be extended for jury duty or military service. For deadlines to be extended, **proper documentation** (doctor's notes, hospital paperwork, jury summons, etc.) is required in a timely manner. Please understand that going on a cruise or vacation, participating in a mission trip or other volunteer efforts does **NOT** warrant the extension of deadlines.

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation for disabilities.

POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Technology Privacy Policies
Valencia College is committed to protecting the privacy rights of its students. Any use of student records and information in this course will comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including third-party tools and services used in this course. Privacy policies for the tools used in this course are listed below:
Valencia College Privacy Policy
Canvas Privacy Policy
YouTube Privacy Policy

Mandatory Orientation Module Review Quiz
Our course features an Orientation Module with several non-graded activities designed to get you properly set up for our Canvas course environment and to ensure your understanding of course policies and procedures. **The Orientation Module Review Quiz is used to establish attendance for our online course and MUST be completed by the deadline specified in the course calendar, or you will be withdrawn from the course as a no-show AFTER the Drop/Refund deadline (listed in the course calendar).**

Drop/Refund Deadline
The Drop/Refund Deadline is listed in the Canvas course calendar.

Withdrawal Policy
The withdrawal deadline to receive a 'W' grade for this course is listed in the Canvas course calendar. Students who withdraw from this course by this date will receive a 'W' grade for the course. A 'W' grade will not be calculated into the student's grade point average. In order to receive a 'W' grade, YOU must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline. The instructor will NOT withdraw you. If you miss the withdrawal deadline, you will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F), based on your performance in the course. It is YOUR responsibility to withdraw from the course and adhere to the withdrawal deadline. Students on financial aid or scholarships should consult a counselor before withdrawing from the course. There might be financial implications you need to be aware of, in order to make an informed decision. Please review Valencia's guidelines for Course Attempts & Course Withdrawal.

Deadline to Apply for Graduation
The deadline to apply for graduation is listed in the Canvas course calendar.

POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Florida House Bill 233
Students may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a planned presentation by a college faculty member or instructor, during a scheduled class, delivered for the purpose of transmitting knowledge or information that is reasonably related to the pedagogical objective of the course in which the student is enrolled. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to class discussions, student presentations, labs, academic exercises involving student participation, and private conversations, is prohibited. Recordings may not include the image or voice of other students in the class, may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the College's Student Code of Conduct.

DISTANCE TUTORING & TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

You can easily access Valencia's free distance tutoring and tech support from a computer, laptop or mobile device. Distance tutoring services are provided fully online via Zoom. Through this service, you will receive real-time assistance via a Valencia tutor. Online tutoring is offered in mathematics, sciences, accounting & economics, computer programming, EAP and foreign languages, and writing.

Online Learning Technology Support services are also available. Students can receive assistance with navigating Canvas, OneDrive, Zoom, YouTube, and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, & PowerPoint). Support is also provided for video editing (via iMovie and MovieMaker) and converting documents from a Mac to PC. Tech support is available live (on-demand) via Zoom, by appointment, or via email. Students are encouraged to use the 24/7 Canvas Help located inside Canvas by clicking on the "Help" icon.

To get started using the Distance Tutoring and Learning Technology Support services, please visit https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/distancetutoring. Through this site, you can view the schedule of tutors/tech support assistants, find available times, learn more about the services, and access a collection of supplemental resources that are available 24/7.

VALENCIA COLLEGE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Please click the link to access the Valencia College Student Handbook.

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STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BayCare Student Assistance Services
Valencia is committed to making sure that 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's confidential student assistance program phone counseling services by calling (800) 878-5470. Please review BayCare Student Assistance Services for more information.

EVALUATION

Tests
There will be five tests in this course, spread out evenly over the semester. In the tests you will demonstrate your mastery of the material covered in the learning modules. The tests focus on evaluating your understanding of the philosophical theories, including underlying arguments and assumptions. The knowledge of the material covered is expected to be cumulative. The tests will consist of multiple-choice questions. Detailed test-taking instructions will be provided.

The tests will be taken online from within the Canvas course and will be available for a specific timeframe only. This timeframe and the deadline for each test will be listed in the Canvas course calendar. The deadlines for tests will NOT be extended under any circumstances. You will NOT be able to 'make up' a missed test. If you wait until the last day (or minute) to take the test and encounter problems of any kind, there is nothing that can be done. It is strongly suggested to take the test at the beginning of the availability period. It is your responsibility to ensure proper hardware and software configuration and reliable internet connection. Tests MUST be taken online from within the Canvas course and cannot be submitted in any other way. The fifth and last test is our final exam. This Test 5 features the same format and similar availability timeframe as the preceding four tests. Each test is worth 100 points.

EVALUATION (CONTINUED)

Review Quizzes

At the conclusion of each of the ten learning modules you will complete a review quiz, in order to evaluate your understanding of the material, pinpoint areas in need of clarification, and guide your preparations for the actual test. The review quiz consists of multiple choice questions. Detailed instructions will be provided.

The review quizzes will be taken online from within the Canvas course and will be available for a specific timeframe only. The deadline for each review quiz will be visible in the Canvas course calendar. The deadlines for review quizzes will NOT be extended under any circumstances. You will NOT be able to 'make up' a missed review quiz. If you wait until the last minute to take the review quiz and encounter problems of any kind, there is nothing that can be done. It is your responsibility to ensure proper hardware and software configuration and reliable internet connection. Review quizzes MUST be taken online from within the Canvas course and cannot be submitted in any other way. Each review quiz is worth 10 points.

Reading Assignments

There will be ten short reading assignments in this course. For the reading assignments you will provide answers to questions pertaining to the primary readings assigned for each learning module. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided.

The reading assignments MUST be submitted online from within the Canvas course and in the manner and file format(s) specified in the instructions. Reading assignments submitted by any other means or in any other format will NOT be accepted. Reading assignments submitted via Canvas email will NOT be accepted. Reading assignments submitted via Atlas email will NOT be accepted.

The deadlines for the reading assignments will NOT be extended under any circumstances. You will NOT be able to 'make up' a missed reading assignment. If you wait until the last day (or minute) to submit a reading assignment and encounter problems of any kind, there is nothing that can be done. It is strongly suggested to submit the reading assignment early during the availability period. It is your responsibility to ensure proper hardware and software configuration and reliable internet connection.

The deadlines for the reading assignments will be visible in the Canvas course calendar. Each reading assignment is worth 20 points.

EVALUATION (CONTINUED)

Opening Discussions

For each module, there will be an opening discussion. In the opening discussion you and your classmates will reflect directly on a philosophical question or problem in preparation for a thorough examination of the philosophical problems or theories covered in the module.

The opening discussions focus on evaluating your ability to participate in a rational debate while being critically aware of your own point of view. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided.

Discussion posts and responses MUST be submitted using the proper discussion threads in the Canvas course and in the manner specified in the instructions. Discussion posts or responses submitted by any other means or in any other format will NOT be accepted.

The deadlines for the opening discussion posts and responses will NOT be extended under any circumstances. You will NOT be able to 'make up' a missed discussion. If you wait until the last day (or minute) to submit a discussion post (or response) and encounter problems of any kind, there is nothing that can be done. It is strongly suggested to submit the discussion posts and responses early during the availability period. It is your responsibility to ensure proper hardware and software configuration and reliable internet connection.

The deadlines for the opening discussion posts and responses will be listed in the Canvas course calendar. Each opening discussion is worth 20 points.

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GRADING

Your overall grade for the course will be calculated based on a 1,000-point system as follows:

Assessment	Score
Opening Discussions	10 x 20 = 200
Reading Assignments	10 x 20 = 200
Review Quizzes	10 x 10 = 100
Tests	5 x 100 = 500
Possible Extra Credit	2 x 20 = 40
Total	1,040

Your final letter grade will be as follows:

Points	Letter Grade
1,040-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
599-0	F

Extra Credit
40 points of extra credit are available for two additional extra credit discussions. The deadlines for these extra credit discussions will be listed in the Canvas course calendar. Each extra credit discussion is worth 20 points. There will be NO other opportunities for extra credit in this course. Your scores for opening discussions, reading assignments, quizzes, and tests, as well as extra credit discussions can be accessed using the 'Grades' tool in the Canvas course.

Final Grade Rounding Policy
At the end of the semester, if your total numerical score is five points (not 5%, of course) or less short of the next higher letter grade, I will round up in your favor (not in the Canvas gradebook, but when entering final grades into Atlas). If your total numerical score is more than five points short of the next higher letter grade, I will NOT round up.

This document is subject to change. Any changes will be announced via the 'Announcements' tool in Canvas, and this document will be updated accordingly.