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| Valencia College Logo | |
| **PHI 2010 Course Syllabus**  **Philosophy: CRN TBA**  **Semester**  **West Campus**  **Modality** | **Statue of man throwing item** |

# I. BASIC INFORMATION

**Professor Travis Rodgers, PhD**

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| **Contact Information**  Office: 5-259  Phone: 407 582-1075  Email: [trodgers6@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:trodgers6@valenciacollege.edu)  Twitter: @TrodgersUCF  \*It is always best to see me in my office hours in person. Email is second best. Twitter is good for simple questions in virtual hours. Phone is least good. | **Office Hours**  **TBA** |

**Required Textbooks**

There are no required texts for this course. All course materials will be posted in Canvas. You are required to have these materials with you in class, either as a printed copy or an electronic copy.

# II. COURSE INFORMATION

**Common Course Number:** PHI 2010

**Course Title:** Philosophy

**Contact Hour Breakdown:** Cr: 3 Contact: 3 Lab: 0

**Discipline:** Philosophy

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Catalog Description:** 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.

**Course Description:** This course addresses (in overview) the major branches of philosophy – logic, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. What does it mean to believe something? What is truth? Are there good reasons to believe in God or gods? Is there such a thing as a good life for humans?

**Learning Outcomes**

* Identify key assumptions and implications of major philosophical theories and perspectives in their historical context.
* Define essential philosophical concepts.
* Evaluate philosophical theories and arguments for coherence, consistency, and plausibility.
* Construct philosophical arguments.
* Develop college-level writing skills.

# III. STUDENT SUCCESS INFORMATION

**Course Structure**

This class uses the Mastery Learning approach. You can work mostly at your own pace through this class (but you must submit the orientation quiz by the first Thursday of the first week of class - see details below). All materials are posted in the Lessons pages.

**Course Navigation**

This course is set up to use the Modules/Home view in Canvas. You will see Skills and Lessons.

**Grades**

This course uses the Point-by-Point teaching and assessment approach. This approach has two components.

Component 1: Mastery Learning

Any assessment you submit demonstrates Mastery (90%+), Proficiency (60%+), or is considered Incomplete. If you score Incomplete, you must resubmit your assignment. If you score Proficient but not Mastery, you may resubmit your assignment.

Component 2: Step-by-Step Assessment

There are ten steps in this class, starting with step 1 (which should be within reach for a student starting this class) and climbing to step 10 (which would be very difficult for someone who has not taken this class).

As you earn a step (by scoring Proficient or Mastery), you can move onto the next step. You may not move on to the next step until you demonstrate Proficiency or Mastery.

### Grading

There are Ten Steps. Each step is graded this way:

“Incomplete” 0 points earned Any grade below 60%, doesn’t follow directions,

Academic Dishonesty

“Proficient” 1 point earned Any grade of at least 60% but lower than 90%

“Mastery” 2 points earned Any grade of at least 90%

Course Grade

A Earn 18-20 points

B Earn 15-17 points

C Earn 10-14 points

D Earn 5-9 points

F Fail to earn a D grade.

**Due Dates**

Remember: due dates matter only in terms of how frequently you can submit assignments. All materials for online classes are due Thursday by 11:59 PM, Eastern Time. If something strange and unusual happens and Valencia as a college changes its schedule, I will email you any updates to our schedule. For face-to-face classes, one day per week will be designated as an assessment day. You can submit assignments only on assessment days.\*

# IV. COURSE POLICIES

**Late Work**

There is no such thing as late work in this class. If you do not submit anything in a week, you lose nothing except an opportunity to earn more points. The sole exception is that you must submit the orientation quiz in the first week of class, or you will be withdrawn as a No Show. And all materials must be submitted by the last meeting date.

**No-Show Policy**

If you do not complete the Orientation Quiz by the due date, you will be withdrawn from the class 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 “WN” will appear on your transcript for the course.

**Attendance**

Attendance and participation are crucial to your success. For online courses, attendance is determined by consistently logging in and accessing the course content and completing courses in accordance with the syllabus. In the event of absence from a classroom course or the inability to participate in an online or hybrid/mixed-mode course, you should contact your professor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible.

**Illness**

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.

**Withdrawal Policy**

Per Valencia policy a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W." A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. If you do not intend to complete the course, you must withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal date.

I - your instructor - will never withdraw you unless ordered to do so by Valencia College. If you complete the required assignment to avoid a No Show, then you're part of the class unless you change that.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but also to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. As a registered student, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to Valencia’s learning community and that does not impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the college as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

**Academic Honesty**

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.

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. If a student is caught submitting plagiarized work a first offense will result in losing any credit for that assignment. You will not be able to resubmit for credit. A second offense will result a class grade of F.

Note that when I ask you to complete an assignment, unless otherwise indicated, you are to use only course materials to answer the questions or solve the problems. This is not a test of your knowledge prior to this class. It is an assessment of your mastery of this content.

**Copyright Policy**

To avoid copyright infringement, any materials produced specifically for this class can ONLY be used during this term for this class.

**Third-Party Software & FERPA Policy**

Valencia College has a firm commitment to protecting the privacy rights of its students. Third-party software privacy policies will be provided at the point of use within the course. Additionally, faculty and staff abide by the stipulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

# V. ADDITIONAL POLICIES

*Faculty/Student Communication*

“Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to talk to your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.”

I can be reached by email at trodgers6@valenciacollege.edu . You should expect an email response within 24 hours. If you don't receive one, please email me again.

*Classroom Rules of Student Behavior*

College policy prohibits children from attending lectures; please, do not violate this policy.

Proper classroom etiquette is required for you to attend this class; please do not create distractions while the instructor is lecturing. More than one warning for improper classroom behavior, following a referral to the academic dean or the calling of security, will be grounds to be dropped from the course without a refund.

Under no circumstances will your test scores, total points or final grades be discussed on the telephone. FERPA rights to privacy prevent the divulging of scores or related materials by that means. Scores will only be given face-to-face with each student or by accessing your Atlas account.

*Baycare Behavioral Health’s 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.”

*Students with Disabilities Information:*

"Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class; accommodations will not be applied retroactively. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities."

West Campus SSB, Rm. 102 Phone: 407-582-1523 Fax: 407-582-1326

*College Catalog/Student Handbook/Policy Manual*

A full description of all College policies can be found in the College Catalog at http://www.valenciacollege.edu/catalog/

The Student Handbook can be found at: http://valenciacollege.edu/studentdev/CampusInformationServices.cfm

The Policy Manual can be found at http://www.valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/

The college calendar can be found at http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/ for important dates.

# VI. SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS

## Module I: Beliefs and Judgments

What is a philosophical claim? What are the standards of evaluation?

## Module II: Divine Authority

What is God? Does God exist? Should we obey God? If so, why?

## Module III: Social Authority

What is the nature of social authority? Is the state a necessary evil?

## Module IV: Being and Knowing

Does the soul exist? What is it? What could it be?

# VII. IMPORTANT DATES

See Canvas for details.