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| http://frontdoor.valenciacollege.edu/file/yqadri/Valencia%20Logo.png | |
| **PHI 2600 Course Syllabus**  **Ethics and Critical Thinking: CRN 26425**  **Spring 2022**  **West Campus**  **Online Class** |  |

**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**  Monday 8:30-9:00 AM  Tuesday 9-11 AM  Wednesday 9-11 AM, 4-5:30 PM  Thursday 9-11 AM  Friday 9-11 AM |

**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 2600

**Course Title:** Ethics & Critical Thinking

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

**Discipline:** Philosophy

**Prerequisites:** ENC 1101 or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110

**Corequisites:** None

**Catalog Description:** Study of major theoretical principles on which claims to good life and moral action have been based, such as hedonism, utilitarianism and rationalism. Each theory illustrated by representative selections from works of great philosophers from classical period to 20th century. Gordon Rule course which requires demonstration of college level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

**Course Description:** We so often argue about whether things are good, bad, right, or wrong. We surely believe that there are things we should and should not do. Although we often have strong beliefs on these matters, our own beliefs are not always supported by good arguments. This course focuses on improving your critical thinking abilities and applying that critical thinking to your own views about ethics – good/bad, right/wrong. The goal is to help you become a better ethical reasoner.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Critical Thinking
  + Define moral concepts.
  + Identify key assumptions and implications of major moral theories and concepts.
  + Identify key assumptions and key arguments in the public debate surrounding contemporary moral issues.
  + Evaluate moral arguments in the public debate for coherence, consistency, and plausibility, using understanding of moral theories.
  + Construct moral arguments.
* Written Communication
  + Demonstrate college-level writing.
* Ethical Responsibility
  + Reflect on the connection between moral perspectives and personal and civic responsibilities.

**III. STUDENT SUCCESS INFORMATION**

## Grades

This course uses Specifications (Specs) Grading.

Your grade will be determined by how many points you earn on these assignments.

### Calculate Your Grade

A: 35+ points

B: 25-34 points

C: 15-24 points

D: 11+ points

F Grade: Fail to earn a D grade.

## Due Dates

I consider a week's end at 11:59 PM on Thursday. Remember: due dates are merely guidelines in this course (with the exception of the end of the semester). If something strange and unusual happens and Valencia as a college changes its schedule, I will email you any updates to our schedule.

### Late Work

There is no such thing as late work in this class. In any week, you can submit as many assignments as you want. Some assignments can be resubmitted, but they require tokens. 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.

**Assignment Overview**

**Type Description Possible Grades Resubmission?**

Group Training Post and Respond Accept (1) / Revise (0) Yes, with token.

Individual Application Answer Question Exemplary (2) / Accept (1) / Revise (0) Yes, with token.

**Group Basic Training (x20, 20 points possible)**

These are the twenty most important assignments for the core teachings of the class. If you earn credit on all of them, you guarantee yourself at least a C for the course. You and your classmates will work cooperatively on these assignments, but your grade will be determined solely by your own work. I will give you a list of prompts. You will choose the prompt to answer, and you will answer it. Then, you will find a classmate’s post and reply to it. The GBT has two components: the answer and the reply.

**Individual Application (x10, 20 points possible)**

These are ten challenging assignments. They are worth up to two points as a result. They build upon the materials from the GBTs, require more thought and more writing, typically.

These are individual assignments. You will not see your classmates' submissions, and they will not see yours. I will give you one to three prompts. You will choose the prompt to answer, and you will answer it.

**IV. COURSE POLICIES**

**Make-up and Extra Credit Policies and Procedures**

No work is late unless you miss the end of the semester deadline. In other words, until the last day I list class as available, your assignments are not late. There is no extra credit, but there are token opportunities. Tokens allow you resubmit an assignment to try to earn more points.

**Withdrawal Deadline and Policy**

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals) a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of “W.”

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 receive a grade of only A, B, C, D, F or I. An I grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will receive an A, B, C, D, or F, in accordance with your work and the syllabus. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in your receiving a grade of F in the course.

**The instructor will not withdraw any student for any reason**; it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw themselves before the withdrawal deadline and to be aware of the date of the withdrawal deadline. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

**Note that for online classes, if you do not complete ALL of the first week’s materials within the first week, you will be removed from the class as a No Show, in accordance with Valencia’s policies. For face to face classes, if you show up to class prior to the No Show period, you count as having attended and are not a No Show.**

Students on financial aid should consult an advisor or a counselor before withdrawing from a course; there may be financial aid (or other important) implications to the student which he or she must know about to make an informed decision before withdrawing from a course. Students with some scholarships who withdraw or are withdrawn from a class must pay the college for the cost of the class. Other scholarship sponsors may also require repayment.

For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to:

http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfmpolicyID=75&volumeID\_1=4&navst=0

**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.

*Academic Honesty Statement*

“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.’”

You must be familiar with the Academic Honesty Policy. If you cheat, you will receive a zero for the assignment if it is a low stakes assignment. If you cheat on a moderate stakes assignment, you will receive a zero for all assignments of that type. If you cheat on a high stakes assignment, you will fail the course. You may work collaboratively only if the instructor gives permission.

'Tis better to ask permission than forgiveness.

*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.

*Additional Classroom Policies*

Beepers or cell phones which emit audible tones should be turned off or to vibrate during periods when lectures are given in the lecture. Please, do not use your phone for text messaging during lectures; text messaging and phone calls can be completed outside the lecture room.

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**

Please see the course for specifics.

**VI. IMPORTANT DATES**

6 January 10  
Term Begins

January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (No Classes Held)

January 18

Drop for Full Refund (11:59 PM)

January 20-29

No Show Reporting

February 11

Learning Day (No Classes Held)

March 7-13

Spring Break (No Classes Held)

March 22

W deadline Full Term

April 25-May 1

Final Exams (April 28th is the last day for us)

May 3

Grades Available in ATLAS