

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2018

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| CONTACT INFORMATION: | Professor Wilfredo Melendez  West Campus  Phone: 407-582-1300  Email: \_ wmelendez6@mail.valenciacollege.edu  Office Hours: (TBA) | |
| COURSE TITLE: | Ethics and Critical Thinking-PHI 2600- W19  Days: Tuesday and Thursday  Time: 0400P-0515P  Place: WC-005 ROOM: 229 | |
| COURSE DESCRIPTION: | ETHICS AND CRITICAL THINKING Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in ENC 1101 or ENC 1101H or IDH 1110 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. | |
| PREREQUISITE: | ENC 1101 (for any writing course) | |
| TERM Fall 2018 | Full Fall Semester- Aug27, 2018 – Dec 16, 2018  Final Exam Week: TBA  H1, H2, and TWK semesters will have the final exam on the last day of classes for those semesters. | |
| CREDIT HOURS:  CRN:  REQUIRED TEXTS: | 3 credit hours  Required texts: Ethics, Theory and Contemporary Issues. Mackinnon/Fiala | |
| IMPORTANT DATES: | September 3 and November 21-25 college is closed. | |
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| COURSE FORMAT & METHOD OF INSTRUCTION  Electronic Devices in class | | The course will be taught through a combination of lecture, hands-on classroom exercises and homework assignments. Students should not assume that there will be class time to complete homework assignments. Required readings, assignments and other activities will be provided.  **Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.** |

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| MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES. | **MAJOR LEARNING OUTCOMES** :  Upon completion of this course, successful students will be able to :  **Valencia College Core Competencies**  The faculty of Valencia College has identified four core competencies that define the learning outcomes for a successful Valencia graduate. These competencies are at the heart of the Valencia experience and provide the context for learning and assessment at Valencia College. You will be given opportunities to develop and practice these competencies in this class. The four competencies are:   1. **Think** - think clearly, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in the many domains of human inquiry 2. **Value** - make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments 3. **Communicate** - communicate with different audiences using varied means 4. **Act** - act purposefully, effectively and responsibly.   **Learning Outcomes**   * Think   Students will develop the ability to understand and evaluate arguments. This will include the ability to identify arguments and their constitutive parts, classify them according to standard divisions, and evaluate their truth and inferential claims.   * Value   Students will begin to evaluate their particular and general ethical beliefs with an eye toward improving overall consistency and grounding particular norms in larger normative and meta-ethical framework.   * Communicate   Students will improve their verbal and written communication through class discussions, small (in-class) group projects, formal written papers, and reports on their projects to the entire class.   * Act   Students will begin to investigate the theoretical foundations of rational action, both on the level of personal and political actions. | | | |
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| INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: | Reading assignments will be provided on through CANVAS  The class will have a CANVAS space | | | |
| GRADING SCALE: | The following grading scale is used:  A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60    **INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN:**  **How Your Final Grade will be Determined:**  **Attendance (100 points)**  **THREE written Essays (300 points/ 100 pts each)**  **Mid-Term and Final Exam (200 points/ 100pts each)**  **Homework (100 points)**  **Possible Semester Total (700 points)** | | | |
| COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: | * Complete reading assignments and participate in discussions for the course in Blackboard.   **Out of Class Activities**  Students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to contribute when class starts. This means that students are expected to complete all required readings prior to the beginning of class.  Format for Assignments  All papers and other classroom assignments must be typed and double-spaced in easy-to-read fonts (Times New Roman, 12). Some classroom exercises may be done in pen or pencil. I will return any ineligible assignments for you to do over. | | | |
| ATTENDANCE POLICY & NO SHOW PROCEDURES: | If you must miss a class or activity or are late it will impact your grade. Classroom and activity attendance and punctuality is vital to academic success. Excused absences will be allowed in accordance with Valencia’s official policies.  You must attend class all semester, be on time and submit the assignments on the due dates to meet the attendance requirement.  PLEASE include here a detailed description of your Attendance Policy  For example:  ATTENDANCE:  # Absences points #absences points  0 100 6 70  1 96 7 66  2 90 8 60  3 86 9 56  4 80 10 50  5 76 11 + 48 | | | |
|  | **COURSE CALENDAR: (dates, topics and assignments for each class meeting):**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment/Readings/** | | Week #1  Class Begins | Introduction and Review of Course Syllabus/ Ethics and Ethical Reasoning | Pages 1-14 | | Week #2 | Religion and Global Ethics | Pages 15-29 | | Week #3 | Ethical Relativism | Pages 30-40 | | Week #4 | Egoism, Altruism, and the Social Contract | Pages 41-51 | | Week #5 | Utilitarianism and John Stuart Mill | Pages 53-65 | | Week #6 | Deontological Ethics and Immanuel Kant | Pages 67-79 | | Week #7 | Natural Law and Human Rights | Pages 80-89 | | Week #8 | Virtue Ethics | Pages 90-98 | | Week #9 | Feminist Thought and the Ethics of Care | Pages 99-110 | | Week # 10 | Euthanasia/Abortion | Pages 111-150 | | Week #11 | Sexual Morality/ Equality and Discrimination | Pages 152-190 | | Week #12 | Economic Justice/ Punishment and the Death Penalty | Pages 192-233 | | Week # 13  Nov 15-17 | Environmental Ethics/ Animal Ethics | Pages 235-274 | | Week #14  Nov 22-24 | Biotechnology and Bioengineering | Pages 276-296 | | Week#15 | Violence and War/ Golbal Justice and Globalization | Pages 298-335 | | Last Week of Classes | Contempory Reading | Canvas | | Final Examination | **Final TBA** |  |   *This syllabus is offered as a guide; however, it is subject to change throughout the semester, as necessary.*  *wever, it is subject to change throughout the semester, as necessary.* | | | | |
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| WITHDRAWAL POLICY: | Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W”.  A student may withdraw at any time during the term in Atlas. The New Withdrawal Policy has been implemented. Here’s what you need to know about the new Withdrawal Policy:  ·         Students may withdraw themselves for a W up until the withdrawal deadline.  ·         After the withdrawal deadline each semester, students can no longer withdraw themselves.  ·         Before the withdrawal deadline, both a student and faculty may withdraw the student.  ·         After the withdrawal deadline, a student cannot withdraw him-/herself.  Excessive absences/ Lateness of fifteen minutes or early departure will count as a miss hour. A professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission. (2002-03 College Catalog p.62) Do not leave early without informing me. This is disruptive and rude.  Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful of the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited:  . Rude or disrespectful behavior;  . Unwarranted interruptions;  . Failure to adhere to instructor’s directions;  . Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation;  . Physically or verbally abusive behavior.  Student’s behavior that is inappropriate will result in disenrollment from the course.  *If a student knowing he/she is not passing the course but fail to withdraw by the deadline but decides to stop coming to class should know the professor will not withdraw him/her from the course and the grade of F will be assigned.* | | | |
| MAKE-UP POLICY:  **CLASS PARTICIPATION** | | Exams and Final Exam cannot be made up. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.  Please include here your make-up policy  Participation in class involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:  • Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities.  • Your cooperation during group and pair work.  • Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.  • Your daily preparation for each class.  • Your instructor may assign written homework that will be collected and graded; these assignments form part of your participation grade  Participation does not mean interrupting the class, leaving the room and coming back, and/or just asking questions.  CLASS PARTICIPATION:  A (90-100) Student prepares for the lesson, volunteers answers,  responds correctly.  B (89-80) Student responds when called upon; answers are generally  correct.  C (79-70) Student has some problems with the subject, but makes an  effort to be prepared, understand, and respond.  D (69-60) Student does not respond correctly, is not prepared for  class, does not have materials ready, and is absent  frequently.  F (59-0) Student can’t answer questions, does other things not  concerning class, and is absent most of the time.  **Participate and contribute to all learning activities - Actively participate in all work, learning and discussions (including completing readings prior to discussions) related to learning activities.**   * **Be a positive student and teammate –- Conduct yourself in a professional and scholarly way that will enable peers and faculty to perceive you as a positive role model.**   **Instructional Methods**  This class will be a blend of discussion, small group activities, videos and  lecture. If you have any questions at any point during class, please feel free to ask.  **Out of Class Activities**  Students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to contribute when class starts. This means that students are expected to complete all required readings prior to the beginning of class.  **Additional Information / Instructions**  **Students, who arrive to class more than 5 minutes late, will miss essential information. Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for fellow classmates and instructor and will affect your grade. I will take attendance at the start of every class, if you arrive late it is your responsibility to let me know you were here at the end of class.**  **Classroom Management:**  **During class we will be discussing potentially controversial topics. It will be our goal to have civil discussion even when we disagree. A Safe - Space that allows free expression will be applied. Additionally, there should be no cell phone use or texting in class. Talking amongst yourselves while others (including the teacher) are trying to express themselves will not be tolerated!**    **Format for Assignments**  **All papers and other classroom assignments must be typed and double-spaced in easy-to-read fonts (Times New Roman, 12). Some classroom exercises may be done in pen or pencil. I will return any ineligible assignments for you to do over.** | | |
| ACADEMIC HONESTY:  Student Conduct and Academic Honesty: | | 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.” Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.  Professors should include here their rules about Plagiarism or attached the document I sent about the topic  VCC Expected student conduct: 10-03 Student Code of Conduct   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Specific Authority: | 1006.60, FS. | | Law Implemented: | 1006.60, FS. |   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: <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policies/policydetail2.cfm?PolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3>  Exams and homework are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit.  Students may collaborate in group assignments. Collaboration should be used to edit or to clarify doubts. If anyone is involved in incidents of cheating a zero will be given. Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on ***Academic Honesty*** as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. Any student(s) cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the exam. This cannot be replaced with the final score and the professor at his/her discretion can withdraw you from the class. PLEASE include the definition of Plagiarism. Go to our website.  Students are responsible for preparing for class by reading pre-assigned readings and completing assignments.  Students who are absent are fully responsible for all material covered in class. Leaving a message on my phone or sending an e-mail will not be an excused absence. Make sure you can contact your classmates too.  Students should bring the textbook and any other material required for class.  During exams and quizzes, students may not leave the room.  The instructor’s office extension is \_\_TBA\_\_\_\_. Messages should consist of your name, your class and class time, and a brief message. Questions such as “What did we cover in class?” will not result in a response. Due to the problem of “phone tag”, student phone calls will normally not be returned. Emails with specific questions will be answered as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours (during week days). Students who need more than a brief response should arrange a meeting with the instructor.  Wandering in and out of the classroom without prior permission is unacceptable and you could lose participation points for doing so. Doing such things will affect your grade. Also, improper conduct like interrupting too much, talking with peers, been disrespectful to professor and peers will affect your grade. Joking and having small conversations while the professor or peers are talking are considered disruptive behavior and it will not be tolerated.  Participation in class involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:  • Your use of Spanish in the classroom.  • Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities.  • Your cooperation during group and pair work.  • Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.  • Your daily preparation for each class.  • Your instructor may assign written homework that will be collected and graded; these  Assignments form part of your participation grade  Participation does not mean interrupting the class, leaving the room and coming back, and/or just asking questions.  CLASS PARTICIPATION:  A (90-100) Student prepares for the lesson, volunteers answers, responds correctly.  B (89-80) Student responds when called upon; answers are generally correct.  C (79-70) Student has some problems with the subject, but makes an effort to be  Prepared, understand, and respond.  D (69-60) Student does not respond correctly, is not prepared for class, does  Not have materials ready, and is absent frequently.  F (59-0) Student can’t answer questions, does other things not concerning class,  and is absent most of the time.      Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.   1. The use of the computers in the language lab is exclusively for activities relevant to the class. The language lab is not a printing lab, so you are not allowed to print papers in the language lab. Also, you are not allowed to "chat" or go to sites like “My space" or check your bank account during your time in the lab. You will be warned not to do so once but if the behavior continues, you could be asked to leave the language lab. You are not to modify any hardware or software system configuration or setting. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct will be considered a violation. | | |
| **INTERNET RESEARCH**  INTERNET RESEARCH STATEMENT: | | Students who are absent are fully responsible for all material covered in class. Leaving a message on my phone or sending an e-mail will not be an excused absence. Make sure you can contact your classmates too.  Students should bring the textbook and any other material required for class.  During exams and quizzes, students may not leave the room.  The instructor’s office extension is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Messages should consist of your name, your class and class time, and a brief message. Questions such as “What did we cover in class?” will not result in a response. Due to the problem of “phone tag”, student phone calls will normally not be returned. Emails with specific questions will be answered as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours (during week days). Students who need more than a brief response should arrange a meeting with the instructor.  Wandering in and out of the classroom without prior permission is unacceptable and you could lose participation points for doing so. Doing such things will affect your grade.  Also, improper conduct like interrupting too much, talking with peers, been disrespectful to professor and peers will affect your grade. Joking and having small conversations while the professor or peers are talking are considered disruptive behavior and it will not be tolerated.  Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.  The use of the computers is exclusively for activities relevant to the class. Activities not in accordance with the Valencia Student Code of Conduct will be considered a violation.  Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable.  Many sites contain research and information of high quality.  However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet.  There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the Internet for their research needs when working on activities.  For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, uses of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs.  **However, each professor makes the final determination of what is or is not accepted as a valid source so review the syllabus for specific guidelines from your professor**. | | |
| Office of Students with Disabilities:  TESTING CENTER-WEST | 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 the 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/osd  The TESTING CENTER-WEST is located in Building 11 Room 142 --407-582-1323  Please note!!!  No tests are given out the last hour before closing—for example, if  the Center closes at 9 p.m., the last test is given out at 8 p.m. Tests  will be collected 5 minutes prior to closing.  Fall and Spring Terms:  Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9 p.m.  Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.  Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  Summer Full Term, Session A, and Session B  Regular Hours except for Fridays: Fridays: 8:00 am- 12:00 Noon  WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING  Your Valencia Photo I.D. is REQUIRED for all tests!  Valencia Photo IDs are taken in the Student Development offices on each campus (West Campus office is on the 1st floor of Building 3). The Valencia photo I.D. also has your VID number on it.  The name of the course you are taking and your instructor’s name.  All supplies you will need to take the test. If your test requires bluebooks or green scantron sheets, purchase them in the bookstore. The Testing Center does not provide notebook paper, pens or pencils. Dictionaries and calculators may be borrowed.  WHAT YOU DO NOT BRING  1. Beepers, cell phones, personal tape or CD players, palm pilots, laptop computers.  2. Food or beverages. You will not be allowed to take these to your seat.  3. Children are not permitted in the Testing Center – The Testing Center does not provide sitting services during your test.  ***Deadline to apply for graduation is:  for Fall is September 14.*** | | | |
| Valencia General Education Student Learning Outcomes  IMPORTANT VALENCIA WEBSITE LINKS: | **CULTURAL & HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING**: Demonstrate understanding of the diverse traditions of the world, and an individual's place in it.  **ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY**: Demonstrate awareness of personal responsibility in one's civic, social, and academic life.  **CRITICAL THINKING**: Effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.   * College Calendar: <http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/> * College Catalog: <http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/> * Valencia Policy and Procedures: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/> * FERPA: <http://valenciacollege.edu/ferpa/> * ADA: <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/handbook/sec4.htm> * Medical Records: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/ValenciaCollegePolicy.cfm?policyID=186> | | | |
| DISCLAIMER: | ***Changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor.*** | | | |