Course Syllabus

Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Course Number: PHI 2010
Prerequisites: ENC1101 CR C or (A03 018 and A01 017) or (CPTR 083 and CPTL 083) or S01 440 or FCTR 355
Or FCTR 355

Credit Hours: 3
Contact Hours: 45

Class Meeting Times: Online course: no meeting times

Class Method: This course is designed as an online course and therefore there are no on-campus meeting dates required. A student may access the course on the first day of class at: http://online.fkcc.edu. If the student has difficulty in logging in to the course or the student does not see the course listed, contact the Office of Distance Learning helpline at 305-809-3177 or e-mail to D2Ihelp@fkcc.edu for assistance.

Synchronous Office Hours: Check the Announcement section of the course for synchronous office hour times.

Announcements: Weekly Announcements from the instructor will be posted on the announcements page. To access click on "Announcements" under Course Tools.

Instructor: Lori Kelly
lori.kelly@fkcc.edu

Office Hours: I can arrange face to face meetings M-TH on the Key West campus with 24 hour advance notice. I can arrange Skype, Chat or phone meetings with 24 hours advance notice.

Course Description: An introductory undergraduate course that offers a critical evaluation of the major theories of Philosophy. The major emphasis of the course is the application of theory to contemporary thinking. Includes a 6,000 word writing requirement.
Gordon Rule Writing Requirement

This course satisfies the Gordon Rule writing requirement. A grade of “C” or higher must be attained. (would be omitted in non-Gordon rule courses)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate knowledge—by successfully completing an analytical philosophical paper and an applied critical thinking project—of the following topics:

1. Integration of Ideas – Integrate new ideas into real world situations by analyzing and applying them to personally relevant case studies.
2. Communication – Further develop individual styles of thinking, speaking and writing to demonstrate critical analysis and effectively communicate original ideas in written discourse.
4. Independent Learning – Locate and evaluate primary and secondary sources and incorporate the relevant information into a research paper documented internally and bibliographically. Identify and share new learning resources for further study.
5. Empathy – Approach new and controversial ideas with the principal of philosophical charity, assuming the intelligence and open minded stance of other thinkers while maintaining a critical and analytical mindset.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

There is no required textbook for this class.

All required content will be posted to D2L.
### Proposed Course Schedule

Please note: The course schedule is subject to change to meet the needs of the course and its students. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to stay current.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Textbook Chapters--Topics</th>
<th>Assignments-- Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/21-8/31</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>Review video, syllabus and rubrics and post class contract in the dropbox by Sunday midnight Post first discussion by Friday responses due Sunday midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1-9/7</td>
<td>Reading Philosophically</td>
<td>Post to the discussion board by Friday midnight, responses due Sunday midnight. Post an essay to the dropbox by Saturday midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8-9/14</td>
<td>Evaluating Philosophy</td>
<td>Post a flagged version of Kuhn’s article by Friday midnight. Take a quiz by Sunday midnight. Post your first discussion post due Friday midnight, responses due Sunday midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15-9/21</td>
<td>Philosophy of You</td>
<td>Write your first essay on your personal Philosophy and post it to the dropbox by Saturday midnight. Post your first discussion post by Friday midnight and respond to two others by Sunday midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22-9/28</td>
<td>Who/What Am I?</td>
<td>Revise last week’s essay by Saturday midnight. Post your first discussion post by Friday midnight and respond to two others by Sunday midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29-10/5</td>
<td>Alternatives to Dualism</td>
<td>Add another essay to your final paper project by Saturday midnight. Add both essays together and post your entire paper. Post your first discussion post by Friday midnight and respond to two others by Sunday midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6-10/12</td>
<td>How Do I Know What is True?</td>
<td>Submit any revised essays to last week’s dropbox by Saturday midnight. Post your first discussion post by Friday and respond to two others by Sunday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13-10/19</td>
<td>Alternatives to TRUTH</td>
<td>Add another essay to your cumulative Final Paper project and post it to the dropbox by Saturday midnight. No required discussion post this week. There is an optional discussion board for clarifying this week’s content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20-10/26</td>
<td>Midterm Review</td>
<td>Post your revised essay to last week’s dropbox by Saturday midnight. Post your questions and clarifications on the study guide to the discussion board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27-11/2</td>
<td>Midterm Exam – Essay Due</td>
<td>You have one week to take the exam. Give yourself at least one hour and make sure to plan ahead. I will need at least 24 hours notice to reset an exam. Add another essay to your Final Paper Project and submit the entire paper to the dropbox by Saturday midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3-11/9</td>
<td>What is the Best Life?</td>
<td>Submit your revised essay to the dropbox from last week. Post your first discussion post by Friday and respond to two others by Sunday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10-11/16</td>
<td>What is the Best Life – the expanded edition</td>
<td>Post your next essay in the Final Paper Project to the dropbox by Saturday. Post your first discussion post by Friday and respond to two others by Sunday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17-11/23</td>
<td>Review and Wrap Up</td>
<td>Post your final paper to the dropbox by Saturday midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24-11/30</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>Enjoy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1 – 12/7</td>
<td>Final Paper Due</td>
<td>Final Paper and Final Review are due 12/4</td>
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## STUDENT EVALUATION AND COURSE POLICIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT GRADE DETERMINATION</th>
<th>FKCC GRADING SCALE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Discussion Questions</td>
<td>90% or above A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Essays</td>
<td>70%-79% C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Quizzes</td>
<td>60%-69% D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Final Paper</td>
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### Exam Policy

- Each exam will be given online.
- Makeup exams *may be* offered to students with emergencies, but only if they can provide acceptable documentation of the emergency (e.g., hospital admits slip, etc.). The instructor reserves the right to change the format of any makeup exams (e.g., to essay questions).
- The final exam cannot be made up for any reason.

### Reading Assignments and Homework

All readings will be posted to D2L. Homework and writing assignments will be posted to D2L.

What you will learn to do in this class:
1) Determine your own philosophical point of view and defend it.
2) Differentiate your point of view from another philosopher’s point of view.
3) Evaluate different points of view using proof, arguments and logic.
4) Apply Philosophy to real world events
5) Write a paper that does all those things clearly and persuasively.

Online learning skills you will need to master in the first week

1) Using the discussion board, dropbox and checking your grades in D2L.
2) Reading your college email account.
3) Communicating clearly by email — *always give your name, the name of the class and the name of the assignment you are talking about if you want me to help.*
4) Contacting tech support. @D2LHelp@fkcc.edu or by phone at (305) 809-3177.

What you need to do to pass this class
1) Read the content link at the beginning of each week.
2) Read or watch the content posted there.
3) Check the discussion board and post by Friday midnight.
4) Check back to the discussion board and respond by Sunday midnight.
5) Post your dropbox assignments by Sunday midnight.

### How to earn an A

Keep track of dates and deadlines – use an online calendar, email yourself reminders, do whatever you need to avoid last minute panics. I will respond ASAP, but if you have waited until 11:30pm the evening the assignment is due, I will not be able to fix any technical glitches you run into. Plan ahead and have back up.

### Final Paper Project

We will be working on one paper week by week throughout the semester. Each week you will complete one essay. You have one week to revise that essay for more credit. The next week you will add the next essay to your final paper project. Each week you will turn in your whole paper with your revisions and your new essay and by the end of the semester you’ll have a college level research paper ready to turn in.

**Discussion Posts** Discussion posts count as your attendance and must be submitted on time in order for me to count you as present for class that week. I cannot give credit for late discussion posts.
Class Academic Honesty Policy

Philosophy is about thinking clearly about your own ideas. So the first step in that process is making sure your ideas are your own and not someone else’s. If you use someone else’s ideas in this class that is cheating. If you cheat once – you fail that assignment. If you cheat twice – you fail this class. Just to be clear – here is how I define cheating.

1) **Copying and pasting anything into your essays.** D2L highlights each sentence that you copy, and your essays are supposed to be your opinions, experience and ideas not a mish mash of other philosophers. I don’t want quotes. I want to hear what you think. So keep your fingers away from Ctrl-C.

2) **Using other people’s answers on quizzes or tests.** We will be doing a lot of group collaboration in this class – but tests and quizzes are for you to get feedback on what is sticking in your head. Quizzes are not worth many points, so don’t sweat them and don’t bother with cheating. Just use them as personal feedback. If you bomb a quiz and you can convince me that you studied for that quiz I would rather have you retake the quiz than to cheat.

3) **Using other people’s writing, or having someone write for you.** I would much rather have you submit simple sentences than fancy writing that you do not really understand. This is not an English course or a Creative Writing course. It is about thinking clearly about ideas. If English is not your first language please talk to me at the beginning of the class and we can figure out a strategy for you to succeed. If you can convince me that you understand the ideas then you will pass this class. If you turn in fancy writing that is not your own, you will not learn anything and you will not pass this class.

**Communications:** The online format of this class puts a premium on communications. The prime responsibility for timely communications rests with you - the student. This course will utilize the following methods:

**DISCUSSION FORUMS:** Most weeks under the discussion tab, there will be a question to which the students are to post a response during the week. The student must click on the “respond” button immediately after the question. The student is to make appropriate comments; for maximum credit the student is to respond to at least one other student’s response that week. The student should also check to see who has responded to their comments and respond to this person if it is appropriate to do so. These responses are also to be thought revealing – they are more than “I agree” or “I disagree.” The student is expected to provide quality insight citing and documenting references, in order to demonstrate an understanding of the weekly topic and provide original thought in the posts. Cutting and pasting from the text, websites, or providing a response with limited substance will receive a significantly reduced grade. As with all activities in this class, quality counts and the postings need to add value to the discussion.

In addition, most questions about class policies and subject matter should be posted in the discussion forum to allow the entire class to benefit from the question and the answer. There will often be important information published to the class via the Announcements section, such as changes in due dates, exam information, etc. **The student is responsible for all information published here.**

Occasionally, time-sensitive announcements will be posted in the Announcements section. The student should log on to D2L 3-4 times each week to check for time-sensitive messages. Before the student posts a question, look through the Discussion Board. That same question may have already been asked and answered.

**EMAIL:** The email utility within D2L should not be used for personal items that are not appropriate to share with the entire class. This e-mail uses the student’s FKCC e-mail account.

**What can the student expect from your instructor?**
The instructor will log into D2L and check for messages at least once per day, including weekends and holidays. If the student has an urgent message for the instructor, do not post the same message both on a Discussion Forum and in an email. Doing both will waste the students time and will not result in the instructor getting the message any faster.
the instructor expects to be out of contact for more than a couple of days, they will inform the class via the Announcement section...

**Important Note:** If the instructor has not responded to a student email or voicemail message by the end of the day after the student left the message, the student should assume that the instructor did not receive it and leave another message.

### Logging Off From D2L

In order to better serve our faculty and students, all D2L users should click the “Logout” link when completing online course work. By logging off instead of just closing the internet browser window, D2L server space is freed and system performance is optimized. In addition, logging off will more accurately record each student’s time logged into the online course?

### Class Participation

Class participation is a combination of discussions and online assignments. The online discussion component is defined as posting a minimum number of substantial, separate, and distinct messages to the various Discussion Forums. These discussion board messages must be posted before the deadlines in the Course Calendar to count toward the student’s participation grade.

For the purposes of this class, a substantial online posting must:

1. Provide a good explanation of a concept or concepts related to the material discussed in the forum, or give a good example of how a concept can be applied, or provide an insightful response to a previous post.
2. Be factually correct. The post should help your classmates, and yourself, learn the material.
3. **Be at least 150 words in length.** Messages that do not meet this length requirement will earn only a small amount of partial credit.
4. Have acceptable spelling and grammar. Although this is not a writing class, this is College. Students should get into the habit of writing complete sentences that are grammatically correct. Take advantage of the spell check feature in D2L.
5. Do your own work. Do not plagiarize from any source (internet, textbook, etc) as the body of your post. Study the concept, and then express it in the student’s own words. Make certain to cite and document references.

Other key points:

1. Only messages that meet all of the requirements of a substantial post listed above will earn full credit for participation.
2. It is acceptable (and encouraged!) for more than one student to respond to the same message. The best way to be sure you understand a topic is to try to explain it to someone else.
3. Please use the discussion forums to ask all of the questions you have about the class material. The instructor wants students to ask a lot of questions, and these questions will contribute to the class participation grade.
4. Off-topic messages will not count toward the participation grade.
5. **If the final average is on the borderline between two letter grades, active participation (posting several messages to each forum, on average) will work to the student’s advantage as the instructor decides which of the two letter grades the student has earned.**
6. Messages must have content that contributes to the discussion. Messages that contain a few words and merely say “I agree with you” or something similar will not earn any credit.
7. These participation points are the easiest part of the grade to earn, and also the easiest to forget to do. Don't forget!

8. Copying and pasting from any source, even if the student cites the source, is not acceptable. They should study the source document and paraphrase what they learned when typing a message.

**To earn 100% on the discussion portion of the class participation grade, the student must do the following by the dates published in the Course Calendar:**

1. Post an introductory message to the class in the Introductions forum.
2. Post one substantial message in each discussion forum at any time during the week in which that forum is scheduled. (If two forums are scheduled during the same week, then one message must be posted in each forum.)
3. Some extra credit will be given for substantial messages that are posted no later than Wednesday of the week they are due. This is to encourage students to post early in the week, which will help generate a better class discussion within each forum.
4. If no substantial messages are posted on time in a forum, it will not be possible to earn 100% for that forum. A small number of messages that are not substantial but do say more than “I agree” or “Good Post!” and are more than 1 or 2 sentences in length will earn some part credit, but not very much.

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**Students are expected to familiarize themselves with FKCC Policies, which can be found in the current Student Handbook.**

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**Class Contract**

The Class Contract assignment is my method of ensuring you know what you should expect from me, and what I expect from you. By returning the Class Contract to me, you are acknowledging that you:

a. Understand the policies detailed in this Syllabus.
b. Understand the expectations and due dates listed in the Course Calendar and Assessment Measures.
c. Understand that you will be held accountable to the standards published in this document.
d. The Class Contract must be submitted via the dropbox by the date published in the Course Calendar and Assessment Measures.

By signing my name I acknowledge the above.

Print Name: ____________________________ Date: ______________

Signature: ________________________________