Instructor: Prof. Glenn Tiller
Office: Faculty Center 263
Email: glenn.tiller@tamucc.edu
Phone: 825-6008
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:45-1:45; Tuesday 9:45-10:45.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to American philosophy and the influential movement known as ‘Pragmatism’. We will focus on three major philosophers from the classical period: Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914), William James (1842-1910), and George Santayana (1863-1952). Our primary concern will be with epistemological and metaphysical issues: scepticism, the rejection of foundationalism, the role of belief in inquiry, verification and meaning, the nature of truth, and the idea that the habits of human conduct must provide the basis for philosophical analysis. No familiarity with the material will be presupposed but familiarity with the history of modern philosophy is definitely an asset.

Course Objectives
Successful completion of the course provides you with both a historical and a philosophical understanding of classic American philosophy. You will know the origins and the significance of the pragmatist movement. You will deepen your understanding of perennial philosophical issues in the areas of epistemology and metaphysics. By the end of the course you will be conversant with the nature and origins of pragmatism; and you will be able to write philosophical essays on the pioneering figures in American philosophy. Since much of our time is spent on close textual analysis, you will also improve your reading comprehension skills and strengthen your abilities to construct logical arguments. These outcomes will be measured through in-class quizzes and tests and take-home essay assignments.

Required Text
3. Photocopied readings distributed in class or posted online.

Course Website
To get to the course website, go to the main philosophy page at: http://philosophy.tamucc.edu/
Click on the tab “Courses” and you’ll find a link for our course. Note: to fully access the philosophy website, login using your “islander” email account.

Attendance
All materials discussed in lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for quiz and test questions. Students are therefore expected to attend all lectures and keep up with assigned readings. Students who repeatedly misses classes without a reasonable excuse (e.g. medical) can expect to be penalized (up to a letter grade) on their final grade. If you don’t attend class, don’t expect to pass.
Requirements

1. Ten reading quizzes
   Description: Short quizzes held at the start of class based on assigned readings.
   Worth 10%

2. In class test, September 29
   Description: General test. Format TBA. The test will cover all materials up to and including September 27.
   Worth 25%

3. Essay (1500 words max.), November 1
   Description: Essay topic and specific instructions to be distributed in class no later than October 18.
   Worth 30%

4. Final Paper (3000 words max)
   Description: Topic TBA (a few weeks before the end of class) but it will concern the philosophy of Santayana. Papers must be submitted before the end of the exam period.
   Worth 35%

Grading Scale
All grades will be assigned on the standard grading scale: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, 59% and below=F.

Schedule of Readings
Reading assignments will be posted approximately a week in advance on the course website. The following list of readings is tentative and subject to change. However each of the readings listed below is relevant to this course and therefore highly recommended.

August 25 – September 29
Charles Sanders Peirce
Some Consequences of Four Incapacities
The Fixation of Belief
How to Make Our Ideas Clear
What Is a Sign?
The Categories and the Study of Signs
A Neglected Argument for the Reality of God
Selections from Misak Truth and the End of Inquiry

October 4 – November 1
William James
Pragmatism
The Tigers in India
Humanism and Truth
The Stream of Consciousness
The Will to Believe
Is Life Worth Living?
On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings
A World of Pure Experience

November 3 – December 6
George Santayana
Selections from Scepticism and Animal Faith
(schedule of readings continued)
Selections from *Realms of Being*
Selections from *The Life of Reason*
Some Meanings of the Word “Is”
Normal Madness

**Missed Test Policy**
Students unable to write a test for a *medical reason* must provide a doctor’s note. If a student is unable to write a test for a similarly serious reason, documentation may be required. Make-up tests will be written at an arranged time under my supervision.

**Classroom Etiquette**
You are free to ask any question you please about the material. In many cases if you did not understand something, this is because it was not explained clearly to you, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request clarification. You are also free to argue for any philosophical position you find compelling, *as long as you provide reasons for your point of view*. It is inevitable that during discussions individual points of view will differ. When they do, our reaction will *always* be to patiently listen to the reasons offered for a particular conclusion and cooperatively evaluate those reasons.

**E-etiquette**
*Turn off all cell phones before entering the classroom.* If your cell phone rings during class, I will stop the lecture. Any student who disrupts a lecture by using a personal electronic device will be asked to leave.

**Advisement**
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. For the College of Liberal Arts the undergraduate advisor is Natasha Crawford (825-3466; Natasha.crawford@tamucc.edu). The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley (825-5896; Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to [http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac](http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac).

**Notice to Students with Disabilities**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.
1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Important Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24, Wednesday</td>
<td>Classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 31, Wednesday</td>
<td>Last day to register or add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5, Monday</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4, Friday</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24-25, Thursday-Friday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, Monday</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the University</td>
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<td>December 6, Tuesday</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>Last day to apply for May 2012 graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7, Wednesday</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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<td>December 8-9, Thursday-Friday</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<td>December 12-14, Monday-Wednesday</td>
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**The Fine Print**

For all other matters concerning course withdrawal, appeal of grades, academic misconduct, etc, students are strongly advised to consult the rules outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Handbook and on the web at: http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/.