INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1301.006

MW 3:30 - 4:45 / CI 101

Instructor: T. Toma terry.toma@tamucc.edu

Office Hours: 357B Bay Hall 3:00 - 3:30 MW or by appointment

In this course we will consider the nature of reality, debate the existence of God, and ask after justice and the good life. At the end of this course you should be better able to

1. Identify and define key philosophical terms studied in the course.

2. Distinguish among the philosophical theories studied in the course.

3. Apply philosophical theories to everyday life.

4. Identify major points and arguments of philosophical views.

5. Critically analyze and evaluate philosophical ideas.

Our readings will include both classical texts and contemporary commentaries. Your grade will be determined by midterm (20%) and final (30%) exams; a paper (20%); and homework assignments, in-class quizzes, and class participation / attendance (30%). Late work will be accepted in only the most extraordinary circumstances, so do try your utmost to meet all due dates. If you know you will not be able to submit an assignment on time, be prepared to document your excuse, and if at all possible let me know in advance of the deadline.

There is no required text for this course. Instead, all of our readings and resources will be found online, via Blackboard:

http://bb9.tamucc.edu

Unit One: GOD

1/20 - Introduction

1/25, 1/27 - Does God Exist?

Anselm; Aquinas; Paley

2/1, 2/3 - Faith & Knowledge
Unit Two: APPEARANCE & REALITY

2/8, 2/10 - Truth

Plato; Descartes; Russell

2/15, 2/17 - Experience

Locke; Berkeley; Hume

2/22, 2/24 - Mind & Body

Descartes; Moreland; Ryle

2/29, 3/2 - Mind & Machine

Turing; Lycan; Searle; Churchland; Dennett

3/7, 3/9 - Review / MIDTERM EXAM

SPRING BREAK 3/14 - 3/20

3/21 / 3/23 - Personal Identity

Locke; Hume; Michaels; Thomson

Unit Three: Ethics

3/28, 3/30 - Why Be Moral?

Plato; Aristotle; Mill

4/4, 4/6 - Nonconsequentialism

Kant

4/11, 4/13 - Free Will & Determinism

Holbach; Hospers; Sartre; Kane
Unit Five: SOCIETY

4/18, 4/20 - The Social Contract
Hobbes; Locke; Nozick

4/25, 4/27 - Justice
Rawls; Singer; Marx

5/2 - Review

5/9 - FINAL EXAM (1:45 - 3:45)

E-Etiquette
Please refrain from the use of all electronic devices during class.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Friday, April 8, is the last day to withdraw from the class with a grade of ‘W’. The responsibility to file the necessary paperwork lies with the student.

Disability Services
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Grade Appeal Process
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.