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

Week of:

Unit One: GOD

8/24 - Introduction

8/29 - Does God Exist?

Anselm; Aquinas; Paley; Pascal

9/5 - (LABOR DAY) Faith & Knowledge
Kant; Kierkegaard; James

Unit Two: APPEARANCE & REALITY

9/12 - Truth

Plato; Descartes; Russell

9/19 - Experience

Locke; Berkeley; Hume

9/26 - Mind & Body

Descartes; McGinn; Ryle

10/3 - Mind & Machine

Turing; Lycan; Searle; Churchland; Dennett

10/10 - Review / MIDTERM EXAM

10/17 - Personal Identity

Locke; Hume; Michaels; Thomson

Unit Three: Ethics

10/24 - Why Be Moral?

Plato; Aristotle; Mill

10/31 - Nonconsequentialism

Kant

11/7 - Free Will & Determinism

Holbach; Hoppes; Chisholm; Ayer

Unit Five: SOCIETY
11/14 - The Social Contract
   Hobbes; Locke; Nozick

11/21 - (PAPERS DUE) / THANKSGIVING

11/28 - Justice
   Rawls; Singer; Marx

12/5 - Review

12/12 - FINAL EXAM (8:00 - 10:30)

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

Friday, November 11, is the last day to withdraw from the course with a grade of 'W'.

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 or log onto http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

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 APPEALS: Students who feel they have 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. 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/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.