GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

GRADES

Your grade will be determined by four tests, worth 40% of your final grade; a midterm (20%) and final (30%) exams; and in-class exercises as well as class participation / attendance (10%). If time permits, I hope to offer an extra-credit paper as well. 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. When an extension is granted, the assignment must be submitted no later than one week after the original due date.

I grade in 10% increments:

A: 90-100%
B: 80-89%
C: 70-79%
D: 60-69%
F: 59% and below

There is no required text for this course. Instead, all of our readings and resources will be posted on Blackboard throughout the term:

http://bb9.tamucc.edu

Week of:

Unit One: God

1/17 - Introduction
1/22 - Does God Exist? Anselm, Aquinas & Paley

1/29 - Faith & Knowledge: James & Kierkegaard

TEST #1: Friday, 2/2

Unit Two: Appearance & Reality

2/5 - Truth: Plato & Descartes

2/12 - Experience: Locke, Berkeley & Hume

TEST #2: Friday, 2/16

2/19 - Mind & Body: Descartes & Ryle

2/26 - Mind & Machine: Turing & Searle

3/5 - Personal Identity: Locke & Hume

MIDTERM EXAM: Friday, 3/9

3/12 - SPRING BREAK

3/19 - Why Be Moral? Rachels & Aristotle

3/26 - Consequentialism: Mill

TEST #3: Friday, 3/30

4/2 - Kant’s Ethics

4/9 - Free Will & Determinism: Holbach, Kane & Ayer

TEST #4: Monday, 4/13

4/16 - The Social Contract: Nozick & Rawls

4/23 - Justice: Singer & Marx

4/30 - REVIEW

5/9 - FINAL EXAM (8 AM - 10 AM)
E-Etiquette
Please refrain from the use of all electronic devices during class.

GRADE APPEALS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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. 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. 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.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS
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 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.

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.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 6th, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.