Instructor: Dr. Glenn Tiller
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Phone: 825-6008
Office hours: 1:00-3:00 Monday and Wednesday; 11:00-12:00 Thursday; and by appointment.

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 major 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.

Readings & Online Resources
All readings will be posted on Blackboard. Additional online material (syllabus, announcements, test review, etc.) will also be posted to Blackboard.

Attendance
Attendance will be monitored. Any student who misses more than three classes without a reasonable excuse (e.g. medical) can expect to be penalized (up to a letter grade) on their final grade. 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. If you don’t attend class, don’t expect to pass.
Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Mark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ten reading quizzes</td>
<td>Worth 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: Short quizzes held at the start of class based on assigned readings.</td>
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<td>2. In class test, October 19</td>
<td>Worth 25%</td>
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<td>Description: General test. Format TBA. The test will cover all materials up to and including October 17.</td>
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<td>3. Essay (1000 words max.), November 2</td>
<td>Worth 25%</td>
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<td>Description: Essay topic and specific instructions to be distributed in class no later than October 24.</td>
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<td>7. In class test, during the exam period (date and time TBA)</td>
<td>Worth 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: General test with the same structure as the first test. Will cover all materials after the second test up to and including December 5.</td>
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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.

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

Philosophy is conversational. Feel free to ask any question about the readings. If you did not understand something, 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.

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://cla.tamucc.edu/advising/](http://cla.tamucc.edu/advising/).
Disability and Veterans 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
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). 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’s Office.

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/.

Important Dates
August 28 Classes begin
September 5 Last day to late register or add a class
November 22-24 Reading Day (no class) and Thanksgiving Holidays
November 15 Last day to drop a class
December 6 Last day of classes
December 7 Reading Day
December 8- Final examinations
December 11-14
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 recommended.

August 29 – September 28  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 3 – November 2  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 7 – December 5  George Santayana
Selections from Scepticism and Animal Faith
Selections from Realms of Being
Selections from The Life of Reason
Some Meanings of the Word “Is”
Normal Madness