TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

PHIL 1301-0CW
Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 1: 1/11/2021-2/26/2021
COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Shamim Hunt, PhD

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: Contact me by email

University Email Address: *Shamim.Hunt@TAMUC.edu*

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Less than 24 hours for email.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook: *An introduction to philosophy*, W. Ross Payne.
The text is available online for free.

https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/an-introduction-to-philosophy

Course Description
Students in this competency course explore important philosophical issues together with methods and techniques use to explore such philosophical issues.

QEP Global Course: This course has been selected as a Global Course – tied to the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP seeks to prepare students for an interconnected world. In relation to the QEP, students completing this course will be able to (LO1, i.e., learning outcome 1) demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, trends, processes, and systems), (LO2) apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics, and (LO3) view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world. This course will provide activities, experiences, and opportunities to reach all of the QEP learning outcomes. The posttest in this course will assess the QEP student learning outcomes.

BAAS-OL Essay Prompt: Students will prepare an essay of at least 500 words that will compare and contrast a non-Western school of philosophy to one of the philosopher or philosophical concepts covered in the textbook for this course. The student will have an opportunity to improve the essay based on the feedback prior to

submitting a final version on ecampus. Students are expected to utilize the feedback and make final improvements, and then submit the final, polished essay to their course project as a demonstration of competency in the content area.

BAAS-OL Course Pretest: Students will be exposed to a prompt in the pretest of the course as practice and preparation for creating an essay that will be required in the posttest. The grade received on the pretest does not count toward the final course grade, however the test itself, and this question, helps the student and the instructor by providing an inventory of the student's current level of competency in the content area. It is highly recommended that students utilize the essay prompt in the pretest as a practice activity using the feedback to assist the student in making improvements prior to completing the posttest.

BAAS-OL Course Posttest: Students will be exposed to the same essay prompt that was presented in the pretest as they attempt the posttest. The grade received on the posttest does count toward the final course grade, therefore it is important that the student be prepared and do their best work. Students should utilize the constructive feedback provided by instructors, as well as incorporate knowledge gained from the course content, in preparation of an essay demonstrating a high level of competency in the content area.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

1.   The focus of the first competency is learning to read philosophical material critically, analytically, and reflectively. It is also important to gain a basic understanding of what philosophy is, its value, and how it is differentiated from other disciplines. This section will offer a concise review of logic, including the concepts of argument, validity, and deduction versus induction. Chapters 1 and 2.

2.   The second competency is a historical review of the philosophical views and supporting arguments of some of the key figures in Ancient Greek philosophy. Some attempt will be made to associate the ancient views with contemporary thinking. Chapter 3.

3.   The third competency is concerned with gaining an understanding of such distinctions as rationalism as opposed to empiricism, a basic grasp of the philosophy of science, and the philosophy of mind. Chapters 4,5,6, and 7.

4.   The final competency pertains to ethical issues such as how should I behave toward others, is there a meaning or point to my existence, and what is the best way to organize society?

PRETEST AND POSTTEST FOR EACH COMPETENCY

The purpose of the competency pretests is to provide a baseline understanding of your knowledge in each competency.

The Posttest is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the competency. A score of 80 points or higher is required on the Posttest to demonstrate competency. If you score less than 80 points on any competency you will have an opportunity to review the material and re-take the competency Posttest. You may take the Posttest assessment up to three times. If you have not passed the competency in three attempts, you will work with an Academic Coach to determine another method of fulfilling the program requirements in this subject. If the term ends before you can demonstrate competency, you will receive a grade of "X" and be required to complete the remaining competencies in the next term.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course, and the following technological resources are required:
- Computer/Internet access and connection: high-speed preferred (not dial-up)
- Speakers - so you can hear enhanced audio assignments throughout the semester
- Headset/Microphone
- Webcam
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

This course may also require the following:

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email assignments and other messaging via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" before the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login into eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamucommerce.edu.

eCOLLEGE STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the toolbar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll-Free) to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e., How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions, etc.)

Course Concerns
If you have questions about the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email, through the "Virtual Office," or during office hours.

Other Questions/Concerns
Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department related to your questions/concerns. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Email is the best way to communicate, as it is checked throughout the day. However, to avoid duplication of questions and answers, I prefer that you post all class-related questions in the Virtual Office course tab. Your peers will likely have the same question. Emails of a personal nature should be sent to my email address via eCollege.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Violation of these academic standards may result in removal or failure. Please see the TAMUC Catalog.

DROPPING THE CLASS

If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please contact your Academic Coach. Please be aware that dropping your course may impact your financial aid, veterans and military benefits, three-peat, 45-hour, and 30-hour rules. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course. If you fail to officially drop the class, a failing grade shall be assigned.

INCOMPLETES

If you receive a grade of "X" or Incomplete, you have one full term to complete the items that remain incomplete. If you have not submitted the necessary assignments by the end of the next full term, your grade automatically converts to an "F."

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

A student wishing to withdraw from all courses before the end of a term for which he/she is registered must clear his or her record by filing an application for voluntary withdrawal. Please contact your Academic Coach.

This action must be taken by the date stated in the Academic Calendar as the last day to drop a class or withdraw. Any student who withdraws from the university is subject to the conditions outlined in the section regarding Scholastic Probation or Suspension in the university catalog. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes if he or she does not plan to attend during the semester in which he/she has enrolled. A student has one year from the first day of a semester to appeal a withdrawal refund. Courses withdrawn are counted as attempted hours and count towards the three-peat, 45-hour and 30-hour rules and financial aid and veterans and military benefits.

INSTRUCTOR WITHDRAWAL

Your instructor of record reserves the right to withdraw a student from his or her course based on inadequate access to and progress in the online course materials.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

STUDENT CONDUCT

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See 'Code of Student Conduct' from Student Guide Handbook)