

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 261.03 – Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2008

Professor: Dr. Richard Cording
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TEXT: Philosophy: A Text with Readings; 10th Ed., by M. Velasquez

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will come to appreciate and understand the importance of philosophical reasoning in understanding the important moral, social, political, religious, and scientific issues which confront the world today.
2. The student will be able to recognize and understand the contributions of some of the more important philosophers.
3. The student will develop the ability to read accurately and critically selections from the original writings of philosophers.
4. The student will understand the purposes and methods of philosophical inquiry in general.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

In accordance with the University's Academic Policy Statement 810213, the following statement applies to all students in my classes:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students therefore must refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones, pagers, and music players (for example, iPod-type devices) must be turned off and earphones removed before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not he/she will be allowed to remain.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code...."

A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. There will be no retroactive accommodations.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Chapter 1 The Nature of Philosophy
Pages 4-44

Chapter 2 Human Nature
Pages 46-74, 78-86

Chapter 3 Pages 194-203

Chapter 9 Pages 646-658

TEST 1

Chapter 7 Ethics

Chapter 8 Social Philosophy

TEST 2

Chapters 5 Knowledge and Reality
Pages 309-352, 363-380

Chapter 2 Pages 74-78

Chapter 4 Pages 290-295

Chapter 6 Pages 429-443

TEST 3

Chapter 4 Philosophy and God
Pages 230-290, 295-305

FINAL EXAM