INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Phil. 100
This course fulfills a humanities diversification requirement for the AA degree as well as a humanities diversification requirement for UHM.

Instructor: Chris Ann Moore
Address: Honolulu Community College
         874 Dillingham Blvd.
         Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Office: 72-B
Office Hours: 9:30-10:00am and 1:00-1:30, Monday-Thursday

E-mail: chrismoo@hawaii.edu this is the BEST way to reach me. Please put Phil.100 and your section in the subject line
Telephone: A phone appointment can be made by contacting me through email.

TEXTBOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Great philosophical issues, theories, and controversies.

Welcome. This course is designed as a broad introduction to some of the central issues of philosophy. The goal of this course is to introduce you to, and engage you in, critical reflection on these issues. We will reflect on such matters as: Does a divine being exist? Does my life have a purpose? Why do evil and suffering exist? What is happiness?

Philosophy is the search for wisdom. We will conduct that search by attempting to answer these and similar questions. We will formulate our answers by learning how others have answered these questions, by examining our own beliefs, reasoning, and experiences and by sharing with and listening to one another. Wisdom is not easily achieved. The skills necessary must be earned. Most certainly the part of the journey we will be traveling together will sometimes be challenging. However, it is equally certain that we will share insights, inspiration and even some laughter. Finally, the acquisition of those skills, and the knowledge and understanding obtained are well worth the effort required.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course students will be able to

Articulate some of the ideas and reasoning of some of the major figures in the Western philosophical tradition as well as some of the ideas and insights of other cultures and traditions.

Define, describe and utilize some of the basic concepts of major areas of philosophical inquiry: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Theology and Ethics.

Utilize the methods of philosophical inquiry: Critical Thinking, Critical Reading, Critical Writing and various criteria to test belief.

Employ the above concepts and methods to analyze and evaluate philosophical ideas and arguments, to evaluate their own beliefs and to formulate their own arguments in answer to fundamental philosophical questions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

• 4 Homework Assignments (Review and Essay Questions)
• Midterm Exam
• Final Exam
• Class Attendance and Participation

• 4 Homework Assignments (Review and Essay Questions): Four times over the course of semester you will receive a review sheet asking you define and describe the elements of, and present the arguments for, the various philosophical theories you have learned through class lecture and discussion. The answers to all of these questions will have been written on the board and should be available in your notes. You will also be asked to write two 2-page essays providing your own REASONED answers to some of the various philosophical questions that we have discussed in class. We will review and YOU will correct and revise your review questions during class. You will also read, and we will all discuss, your answers to the essay questions, which you will also revise during and after class. Homework and essays will be graded for completion, effort, thoroughness and accuracy on the date that they are due.

• Midterm (based on Homework I & II) and Final Exam (based on Homework II and IV): You will be asked to define and describe the elements of, and present the philosophical arguments for, the various philosophical theories you have learned. All exam questions will be drawn from the Homework Assignment Review Questions. You should use your corrected assignments as a study guide. You will also be asked to write an essay in response to one of the four Homework Assignment Essay Questions. I will choose the essay question, so you should be prepared to write on any of the four topics presented in your homework essays. Exams are “closed book” and no supplementary materials will be allowed.
• **Class Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is required and excuses for missing class are not accepted. It is assumed that if you miss a class you have a good reason. Consistent absence will severely affect your grade. Students are expected to be on time. If you are late, still come to class, but consistent lateness is disruptive and disrespectful and will negatively impact your grade! Class discussion is a significant part of this course. In fact almost half of this course is devoted to discussion. You will be required to read from your essays in your assigned groups and occasionally to the class as a whole. Through these readings and discussions you will develop and learn to communicate your ideas. You will also teach and learn from one another. I realize that this is difficult for some students at first but it is well worth the effort to overcome these difficulties. You will find that the discussion/reading sections are often the most inspiring part of the course. To live a truly conscious life we must not only know what we truly believe and why we believe it, but we must also be willing and able to communicate these beliefs to others in such a way that we can be understood and appreciated. Further, we must be equally willing and able to listen to the ideas of others, and to revise our own ideas when there seems good reason to do so. This is how real learning and understanding are acquired. This is the path to wisdom. Further, the required readings ensure that all voices are equally heard in this process. Class participation will be reflected in your grade as explained in class.

**COURSE POLICIES**

• Your Curriculum specifies the dates on which HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS are posted and when they are due. Your Homework Assignments will be posted on your class Laulima website and an email notification will be sent to your hawaii.edu email account.

• Answers to all Review and Essay Questions must be handwritten in your notebook in sequence. Leave plenty of space for additions, corrections and revisions. All your writing is required to meet all requirements of college level writing. Slang is unacceptable. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the tutoring resources at the College Skills Center or the Writing Center for help with their writing.

• Late Homework Assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. A missed Midterm Exam may be made up at the end of the semester, ONLY if all assignments have been turned on time and class attendance and participation has been excellent. A missed Final Exam will result in an Incomplete in the course, and arrangements must be made with the instructor for completing the course the following semester.

• Extra Credit Option: One missed Homework Assignment may be made up or 5 pts. extra credit earned by successfully completing the extra credit review question AND the extra credit essay questions on the final exam.

• **If You Miss a Class:** You should check your curriculum to see which philosopher we are covering that day and when your assignment is due. You should read the textbook chapter on that philosopher and get notes from a classmate in your group. After studying the chapter
and your notes, if you have any questions, see me during office hours or make an appointment. Complete and promptly turn in any assignment that is due. See above instructions in bold if you have failed to turn in an assignment that is due. There is no need to contact me, unless you need my assistance. Again, it is assumed that if you miss a class you have a good reason. However, if you are absent often, you should consider withdrawing from class.

• **Courtesy:** We are all here to learn together and to aid one another in that learning process. We will be discussing very sensitive issues. This is not a debate class and the point is not to win an argument. The point is to communicate consciously and clearly, to present reasoned arguments for our own point of view, to question yourself and others, and to learn by becoming aware of other's viewpoints. Much of what you will learn in this class will come from your fellow classmates; from the classmate who expressed what you were trying to say, from the classmate who expressed an idea you had never thought to think and from the classmate who helps you to understand, if not agree with, an opposing view. Please remember that you do not know what your classmates have been through. You have not walked in their shoes, so be careful and considerate in your comments. I respect free speech but it is my responsibility to maintain an atmosphere of respect.

• **Individual Instruction:** You are welcome and encouraged to stop by my office, to email me or to phone me. My office hours are posted on my office door and my door is always open if I am here. I will be glad to make an appointment with you for another time if you are unable to see me during my normal office hours. Again, email is the best way to reach me. Please speak slowly and clearly if you leave a phone message. Many times I have been unable to return a call simply because I did not understand the number given. Please repeat your number. I will do my very best to get back to you within one or two days during the school week.

• **Plagiarism Policy:** You are expected to submit your own work. Although you are welcomed and encouraged to freely use class notes, when you use any part of anyone else’s writing in your papers or assignments you must put those writings in quotation marks and you must use footnotes and a bibliography to attribute that writing to its true author. A failure to do so is plagiarism. When you use some one else's original ideas, even if you do not quote them word for word, you must attribute that idea to them by name and footnote your reference. A failure to do so is plagiarism. Any plagiarism at all on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment. Any further plagiarism will result in failure and dismissal from the class. If you are in doubt about whether a source should be sited it always better to site a source than to fail to do so. Of course you can always ask me for assistance. I also strongly encourage you to consult our fabulous Liberials or to the wonderful tutors at the Writing Center!

• **Cell Phones and Computers:** Your cell phones MUST be turned off before entering class unless I have given you specific permission, which I will do only in emergency situations. Computers are not permitted in class.
GRADING
Discussion and participation is an important element in this class. Attendance and participation will determine your final grade in borderline cases, as explained in class.

- 4 Review Question Assignments……………………........10%
- 4 Essay Assignments……………………………………...10%
- Midterm Exam…………………………………………40%
- Final Exam……………………………………………….. 40%
- Class attendance and Participation

90-100%----A  
80-89%-----B  
70-79%------C  
60-69%-----D
59%--F, N or Incomplete. The N and Incomplete grades are only given in special circumstances and only after a conference with the instructor.

Students in this class who need accommodations for a disability should submit documentation and requests to the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) in Bldg. 2, Rm. 108A. Phone: 845-9282 v/t or 845-9272 v/t for more information. If you have already registered your requests with SSD this semester, please see me after class or during my office hours and be prepared to provide a current verification letter from SSD.