PHILOSOPHY AND FILM
Phil. 204 or 204 WI
This course fulfills a humanities diversification requirement for the AA degree as well as a humanities diversification requirement for UHM.

For WI Students
The class fulfills a writing intensive requirement, a humanities diversification requirement and articulates with UH Manoa’s Phil. 213 course.

Instructor: Chris Ann Moore
Address: Honolulu Community College
          874 Dillingham Blvd.
          Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Office: 7-614
E-mail: chrismoo@hawaii.edu this is the BEST way to reach me. Please put Phil.204 in the subject line
Telephone: office (808) 845-9424
My personal webpage: http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/instruct/moore/

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Prerequisite: ENG 22/60 OR ESL 23 OR Placement in ENG 100

WI Students
Since this course meets the guidelines of a writing-intensive course, English 100, completed with a grade of C or better, is a prerequisite.

TEXTBOOKS
There is no textbook for this course. Students will be required to read handouts and research Internet sources

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course analyzes a group of movies in light of the philosophical themes they embody. Movies implicitly and explicitly reflect specific philosophical themes, positions and ideas. Students will identify, articulate and critically evaluate these themes, positions and ideas in relation to traditional philosophical arguments and their own developing philosophy.

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

Demonstrate an understanding of movies as philosophical enterprises and the possibilities of critical engagement with, rather than passive acceptance of, the philosophical viewpoints depicted or assumed

1
Identify and describe the key philosophical themes, positions and ideas presented in movies

Utilize the methods of philosophical inquiry: Critical Thinking, Critical Reading, Critical Writing and Discourse to analysis and evaluate these themes, positions and ideas.

Develop and articulate his or her own reasoned arguments in response to the above.

Demonstrate the ability to write clear, well-organized, well-reasoned, communicative philosophical arguments and analyses.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

• Films
• Journal/Outline Assignments
• Class Seminar Discussions
• Lectures and Readings/Research
• 4 Papers and Presentations

Films: We will view several films over the course of the semester. You are expected to view these films consciously, carefully and critically rather than seek to be a passive recipient or merely entertained. You are required to take notes during each viewing so that you may begin to engage with the philosophical ideas, positions and themes presented. It may also be helpful to rent the films to view again, i.e. after they have been shown in class. If you wish to do so, since there are only a limited number of copies of these films available locally, it might help to make a "film party" out of it, so that you can maximize the number of people who will be able to see it again.

Journal/Outline Assignments: For each film viewed you are required to write a journal assignment of at least two pages describing the philosophical ideas, positions and themes presented. You should also describe at least one traditional philosophical argument that either supports or contradicts that position. Finally, you must state your own reasoned agreement or disagreement with that position. You will develop your outline for each of your papers, based on these journal assignments. You will present these outlines to the class and we will work collaboratively to improve your outline and help to you to prepare for your paper.

Class Discussion: Your journals will be the basis for and facilitate class discussion. Each student will be expected to read from his or her journal and to discuss the ideas and insights presented. Through these discussions you will develop and learn to communicate your own ideas. You will also teach and learn from one another. You will find that the discussion 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 reformulate
our own ideas when there is good reason to do so. This is how real learning and understanding are acquired.

**Lectures and Readings:** My lectures and your readings will be devoted to outlining and then detailing the key traditional philosophical positions and arguments that others have identified in each of the films. You should take careful notes on both lectures and readings. These should help you to further understand and articulate the fundamental propositions of the films in question, to increase your knowledge of philosophical methods and arguments, and to refine your ideas and insights.

**Papers:** You will write a paper, minimum 3 pages, on four films shown. In your papers you will describe the philosophical position embodied in the film in question. You will also present a synopsis of a traditional philosophical argument that supports or argues against that position. You will also present your own reasoned argument in response to that position. Through your journals, discussion, lectures, and readings you should be thoroughly prepared to write each paper. **ALL papers must be typewritten; double spaced, with 12 pt. type and 1-inch margins, and must meet all requirements of college level writing. Slang is unacceptable. Pages must be STAPLED.**

**For WI Students**
In addition to all of the above, papers must be a minimum of 4 pages each. Papers will need to be revised and rewritten as we work together to improve your writing skills. Although all submissions are expected to be in final draft form, only rewrites will receive a grade. This grade will be heavily influenced by the effort demonstrated on the first submission. This is a writing intensive class and therefore grammar and organization will be a large part of your grade. All papers will receive two grades, one for writing skills and another for philosophical content. These grades will be averaged to determine the grade received for each paper. We will also meet periodically during the semester to discuss our goals for your writing.

**COURSE PROCEDURES**

- **Class attendance is required. Students are expected to be on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Class attendance and participation will be reflected in your grade as explained in class.**

- **It is expected that all assignments will be presented on the date that they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero except under extraordinary circumstances. Students whose fail to turn in an assignment when it is due must meet individually with the instructor to discuss conditions under which late assignments MAY be submitted. If the instructor agrees, depending on the circumstances presented, the student will be allowed to submit the late assignment at the end of the semester, if and only if all other assignments have been submitted on time and class attendance and participation are excellent. If more than one assignment is
past due, all late assignments will be given a zero. If you are going to be absent when an
assignment is due you must get your assignment to me before the beginning of class:
there is a mail slot on my office door for this purpose. Do Not Email me your
assignment unless given specific permission to do so.

• **Individual Instruction:** You are welcome and **encouraged** to stop by my office, to email me
or to phone me. My office hours are posted 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. I will do my very best to get back to you
within one or two days during the school week.

• **Plagiarism Policy:** When you use **any part** of anyone else’s writing in your papers you
must put those writings in quotation marks and you must use footnotes and a bibliography to
attribute that writing to its true author. Further, when you use another’s idea you must credit
the author and cite your source. 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
of and dismissal from the class. Be aware that the H.C.C. student conduct code declares
plagiarism as a reason for expulsion from the entire U.H. system. For specific instructions on
when and how to cite sources see “How to Write a Philosophy Paper” in the “TIPS” section
of my web site. I will be glad to help you if you are confused. Remember, if in doubt, cite!

• **Cell Phones and Lap Tops:** 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.
Laptops are not permitted.

**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.

• Journal Assignments.........................20%
• Short Papers................................. 80% (averaged)
• Class attendance and Participation

90-100%-----A
80-89%------B
70-79%------C
60-69%------D
59%--0------ 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.