



Syllabus Philosophy 101

Online Version

CLASS INFORMATION

Web Course Site: Laulima
See the Syllabus Video
5-weeks, 8-weeks, 10-weeks, or 16 weeks

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ronald (Ron) C. Pine, PhD
See [Ron's Web Page](#)
Office: 7-625
Office Hours: See [Ron's Web Page](#)
E-mail: pine@hawaii.edu
Phone: 845-9163
Virtual Office: Laulima forums; MW, 6am-10am, 11:30am-1:30pm; T-TH, F, 6am-2pm; Weekends, mornings only

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Updates to the syllabus will be communicated via class Laulima announcement.

UH System General Education Requirements

This course fulfills a humanities requirement AND the HCC E-focus requirement for the AA degree as well as a humanities diversification requirement for UHM. Students transferring to UHM will be required to take an additional 300 or 400-level E-focus course in their major to fulfill graduation requirements.

Course Description

Philosophy 101 is a study of and deliberation on contemporary ethical issues through the perspective of classical and contemporary philosophical theories.

Recommended Prerequisite

English 100
Basic Internet Skills, use of Laulima and Word (word processing skills)

Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate competency in ethical deliberation and the use of discipline-based tools to arrive at rational ethical judgments by applying the methods of various philosophical ethical theories and their own moral theory to deliberation on a variety of moral dilemmas and ethical controversies.
- Define and describe the elements of major ethical theories.



- Demonstrate knowledge of the reasoning used to support these theories as well as the flaws inherent in each theory.
- Articulate their own personal moral theory and the reasoning they used to develop and support that theory.
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of moral reasoning through the above applications, assessments and analyses as well as through respectful participation in class discussions and deliberations.

E-focus Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Identify ethical issues within a given discipline or context;
- Use tools/processes/frameworks to deliberate on ethical issues;
- Express an ethical judgment that informs thinking and actions;
- Critique and evaluate their own thinking, behavior and ethical identity using ethical tools and reasoning practices.

Course Format

This course is a distance education (DE) course that involves readings from a free online textbook (see below), video lectures, QuizMes, Laulima discussions, Laulima posts, and a final exam. This course will make use of an Online Learning Management System (Laulima). Use of UH email is also important. Hence, consistent Internet access is essential. Students are urged not to rely solely on a cell phone for Internet access. Students who use only a cell phone often have trouble navigating Laulima and miss important information.

Laulima Post format: Two paragraphs minimum. Discussed further in the Syllabus video.

Descriptive – A description of the student's understanding of the concepts. Please see the course [Plagiarism policy](#).

Reflective – A summary of how you did on the QuizMes and a reasoned opinion on the issues discussed and described in the descriptive part. Agreement with others is not necessary; disagreement is good in philosophy!

So, weekly format: **(Read, Watch, Study, Do)**

Read: Read the textbook

Watch: Video Lecture

Study: PowerPoint (Resources in Laulima) – backbone of the videos

Do: The QuizMes, Discussion and Laulima Post

Course Overview

We will conduct an in-depth examination of contemporary ethical issues applying both our personal ethical values and philosophical moral theories to these issues.



Class discussion is an essential part of this course. Not only for a significant number of guaranteed points, but these discussions will surely reinforce conceptual understanding that will help on the final exam. Through these discussions we aim to create a learning community. You will develop and learn to communicate your ideas, as well as teach and learn from one another. You will find that the discussion sections are often the most inspiring part of the course. Ethical deliberation requires interaction; a willingness to **communicate** our own most deeply held beliefs, to **listen** to the ideas of others, to **respectfully challenge** those ideas we disagree with, to **test** those we do agree with, and to **reformulate** our own beliefs when there is good reason to do so. Ethical deliberation requires the openness to teach without preaching. It requires the openness to be taught. Through our interactions we will be functioning as a community: teaching and learning together. This is how real learning and understanding are acquired. This is the path to wisdom. Bottom line: one way or another, thoughtful participation in the Laulima discussions and Laulima posts will account for a significant part of your final grade.

Required Materials

- [*In Pursuit of Happiness: An Introduction to Ethics*](#), by Chris Ann Moore (2004) (Free online, Resources in Laulima)
- Access to a desktop or laptop computer with high-speed internet access (**labs on-campus**). Software accessibility information: [Laulima/Sakai](#), [Microsoft](#), [Adobe](#)).

Course Policies Communication

Participating in our Learning Community

In our times, students do not have to wait until a class meeting to ask a question or to enter into a dialogue on a class issue. You can be reading the book at home or a library, have a question on the reading, and post that question immediately in a forum in Laulima while the question or issue is fresh in your mind. **As your instructor, I will be there for you.** Usually, if a student posts a question late at night, I will respond between 6am and 2pm the next day. I also provide help on Saturday and Sunday mornings. I do have a life and family, and other on-campus courses, so I may not respond at other times. However, I am notified of a forum post or email on my phone immediately after student submission. I might not respond if it is late at night, but often I will read it and be thinking how to answer the student question the next day.

Students will also have a dedicated forum for just student to student discussions.

Bottom line: We want to create a learning community. We want to talk story and engage with each other, get all the issues on the table for discussion, hopefully in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Contacting the Instructor

Please use UH email and/or the Laulima forums as noted above. We have to use UH email. If you send me an email from another email provider, these days UH gmail flags the email as possibly dangerous and we are urged to just delete.

Alternative Contact

Usually not necessary, but if needed: rncpine@yahoo.com



Attendance & Grading

Attendance/Participation

Laulima forums.

Evaluation and Feedback

Discussed further in the Syllabus video: Final Exam is open book and notes. There will be a two-day window for the final. The final will be in Laulima. See the dates in the course schedule. The top 12 forum posts will be counted out of 15. 10 points each. [Plagiarism policy](#).

Assessment	Points
(A) Laulima Posts	120
(B) Final Exam	200

Missed Forum posts, Final Exam

We will have about 15 Laulima posts. No make-ups because we have to move on and stay sequenced. BUT, as noted above, we will count only your top 12 grades.

If you miss the final exam, you cannot pass the course. If you have a good reason, you will have to take an Incomplete grade and make it up before an administrative deadline. Note: 90% of students taking Incompletes never make-up the final. Generally, life gets in the way of good intentions. Best not to miss the final exam.

Bottom line: Best not to miss any forums, so I can use only your top 12 grades. Very important not to miss the final exam. See the window dates in the course schedule and try to plan now for an open date for your schedule

Final Grade

You will receive a letter grade based on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	66-79%
D	55-65%
F	0-54%

F, N, and Inc. Grades.

F grade: Usually only for students who disappear and “ghost” academic support staff!

N and Incomplete: Contact the instructor. See Syllabus video.



Tentative Course Schedule

See the Course Schedule in Laulima

Course Content

“Winning” vs ethics

Facts and Values

Relativism vs Normative (objective) ethics

Philosophical Reasoning

Theories of Happiness and Ethics

Natural Law Theory

Duty Theories (deontological): Principles and Universal Human Rights, Divine Command theory, Kant and Rawls

Results theories (teleological): enlightened self-interest, Utilitarianism

Your Moral Theory

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

Consult the Degree and Certificates section of the latest [Course Catalog](#).

Institutional Information

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Within professional, civic, and personal contexts, and in the pursuit of their current individual learning goals, HonCC students are able to:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Effectively analyze arguments, assumptions and problems, and draw conclusions.
2. **Information Literacy:** Form strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information, and know the ethical and legal issues surrounding information and information technology.
3. **Effective Communication:** Actively express and exchange ideas through listening, speaking, reading, writing, and other modes of interpersonal expression.
4. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Effectively analyze numerical data, solve quantitative problems, and apply mathematical concepts.
5. **Career Preparation:** Demonstrate knowledge and skills to successfully move to a baccalaureate education or selected vocation.
6. **Community Awareness and Social Responsibility:** Demonstrate and apply an understanding of moral and ethical issues that pertain to the environment, social justice, and cultural diversity.

Honolulu Community College Additional Syllabus Information for Students

Attendance Policy:

Your success depends on your participation in all registered courses. [UH policy](#) requires faculty to identify students who have not participated during the first week of class. Identified students will be administratively dropped from



their class. It is your responsibility to inform the faculty member if you will be absent and wish to remain enrolled. Visit [Participation Verification for Students](#) for more information.

Student Conduct:

As a Honolulu CC student, you must abide by the guidelines set forth in the [UH Student Conduct Code](#). Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not permitted within this course and may lead to a disciplinary action. You are expected to be responsible in relationships with others and your educational pursuits. As part of this responsibility, you must read and familiarize yourself with the UH Student Conduct Code.

Student Accommodations:

Honolulu CC is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact Student ACCESS at (808) 844-2392 or accesshcc-l@lists.hawaii.edu to schedule an appointment. Be sure to provide the confidential memo authorizing accommodations to your instructor(s). Additional information can be found on the [Disability Access](#) website.

Title IX:

Honolulu CC is committed to a safe learning environment that is free of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, including domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you or someone you know has experienced gender discrimination or sexual harassment, please reach out for help. Faculty are required to immediately report suspected or alleged gender discrimination or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that students are supported and aware of available resources.

To report an incident of gender discrimination or sexual harassment, contact the Title IX Coordinator directly at (808) 845-9174 or david.yamashiro@hawaii.edu. If you wish to remain anonymous, speak with someone **confidentially**, or receive information and support in a confidential setting, contact the Wellness Center at (808) 845-9180 or hccwell@hawaii.edu or a UH Confidential Advocate at advocate@hawaii.edu. For more information, visit [Title IX](#) or [UH Executive Policy 1.204](#).

Academic Counseling:

Academic counselors are available to help you assess your educational needs, career interests, and selection of an appropriate degree program. They also assist with program requirements, course placement and sequencing, registration, transfer, graduation, and more! Schedule an appointment at (808) 845-9162 or honcouns@hawaii.edu. For more information, visit the [Academic Counseling](#) website.

If you have academic concerns during the semester, reach out to a CARE member. The CARE Team helps you deal with challenges that may prevent you from attending class or complete assignments. Make an appointment at (808) 845-9290 or honcare@hawaii.edu. For more information, visit the [CARE](#) website.

Academic Support:

Tutoring Support Center - Building 7, 3rd floor. Schedule an appointment for free tutoring in all subjects, email chmiller@hawaii.edu. To access online tutoring 24/7 via Tutor.com go to [MyUH](#).

Library - Librarians provide guidance on the best ways to access and use quality information and resources. To access resources and find information about services, visit the [Honolulu CC Library](#) website. For assistance, visit us in person (Building 7, 1st floor) or reach us via email honcclib@hawaii.edu or by phone at (808) 845-9199.

Technical Support:

UH ITS Help Desk: email help@hawaii.edu or call (808) 956-8883 or toll-free at (800) 558-2669.

You may also [Request Assistance](#) for Lulima support, or go to [Lulima Student Support](#).

Wellness Center:

Provides crisis counseling, self-care resources, and community referral services to registered students. Services are free, voluntary, and confidential. Appointments: (808) 845-9180, hccwell@hawaii.edu, or visit the [Wellness Center](#) website.

Basic Needs:

Meeting your basic needs (food, housing, childcare, mental health, transportation, among others) is critical for



ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation, and overall well-being. Visit [Student Basic Needs](#) if you (or someone you know) are experiencing basic needs insecurity.

Veterans:

VITAL Coordinator Dr. Jonathan Mueller, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, provides secure and confidential guidance on VA benefits, care coordination, stress management, mindfulness training, individual and couples therapy, psychological assessment, and more to ensure student Veterans' academic success. Appointments: (808) 940-4287. More information for Veterans can be found on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [VA College Toolkit](#) site.

Honolulu CC Campus Security:

Call (808) 284-1270 or (808) 271-4836