



Syllabus

Philosophy 101

CLASS INFORMATION

MW: 1:30am-2:45pm
Meeting Location: 7-633
Web Course Site: Lamakū

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ronald (Ron) C. Pine, PhD
Office: 7-625
Office Hours: 12:30pm-1:30pm, M-W
E-mail: pine@hawaii.edu
Phone: 808-845-9163 (email is better)
Virtual Office: Lamakū forums

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

The 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 and Lamakū announcement.

UH System General Education Requirements

This course fulfills a humanities requirement (DH) AND the HCC (and LCC) **E-focus** (Ethics) requirement for the AA degree as well as a humanities diversification (DH) 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

Basic Internet Skills, use of Lamakū and Word or Google docs (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 face-to-face on-campus course that involves readings from a free online textbook (see below), lecture, discussion group discussion, practice QuizMes, Lamakū group posts, weekly (usually the second day of the week) quizzes, and a final exam. Optional video lectures are also available. Also, this course will make use of an Online Learning Management System (Lamakū) for Gradebook feedback and Discussion forum activities. 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.** This will be explained more on the first day of class.

After each lecture and general class discussion, students work in groups to discuss their understanding of presented course concepts and their reasoned view on an ethical issue. Someone in the group is then appointed as a Recorder (rotated week to week) to write a summary of the discussion and answer questions posed by the instructor, and then post on Lamakū. The summary should be your (the recorder and group) own words and work. See the course [Plagiarism policy](#). We will discuss the appropriate use (do's and don'ts) of AI (ChatGPT, etc.) on the first day of class.

Lamakū Post format: Two paragraphs minimum.

List of group members

Descriptive – A description of the group's understanding of the concepts. Answer to the instructor's questions.

Reflective – A summary of the reasoned opinions on the ethical issue being discussed expressed in the group. This can be a consensus opinion, or different opinions listed. Agreement is not necessary; disagreement is good in philosophy!

So, weekly format:

Lecture and Discussion
Optional Videos
Practice QuizMes



Group discussion
Quiz
Lamakū 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 with the quizzes and the final exam. Through these discussions **we aim to create a learning community**. You will learn to develop and communicate your ideas, as well as teach and learn from one another. First, you **clarify** your beliefs when confronted with difficult ethical issues. Then you ask, “Do I have good **reasons** for these beliefs? What are they?”

You will find that the discussion sections are often the most meaningful 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 beliefs when there is good reason to do so. Ethical deliberation requires openness to teach without preaching. It requires 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 philosophical wisdom. Bottom line: attendance and thoughtful participation via group discussion and Lamakū 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)
- Access to a desktop or laptop computer with high-speed internet access (**labs on-campus**). Software accessibility information: [Lamakū](#), [Microsoft](#), [Adobe](#).

Course Policies Communication

Participating in our Learning Community

In addition to class and group discussions, students are encouraged to use the **General Questions** and the **Class Discussions** forums in Lamakū. Lamakū will be discussed and demonstrated the first day of class.

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 in a library, have a question on the reading or a practice QuizMe, and post that question immediately in a forum in Lamakū 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 only). I do have a life and family, and other courses, so I may not respond at other times. However, I am notified of a Discussions forum post or email on my phone after student submission. I might not respond if it is late at night, but often I will read it and be thinking about how to answer the student question the next day.



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.

Cosme Students: As you know your hours of attendance will be recorded to fulfill your Cosme degree. An In-and-Out sign-up sheet will be provided for each class meeting.

Contacting the Instructor

Please use UH email and/or the Lamakū 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 it.

Covid Protocol

Based on the latest guidance from the UH administration. Discussed the first day of class.

Alternative Contact

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

Attendance & Grading

Attendance/Participation

Class attendance for an on-campus course is crucial for student success. If you miss a group discussion, you will not get credit for the Lamakū group post.

Evaluation and Feedback

Discussed further the first day of class: The Final Exam is open book and notes, but not the weekly quizzes. Top 10 quizzes (20 pts. each) counted. Top 12 Lamakū posts (10 pts. each) counted. Important note: We usually have 15 Lamakū posts, so students can drop three (3) missed or lowest scored forum posts, **with the exception of Forum 15**. Explained the first day of class.

Assessment	Points
(A) Quizzes	200
(B) Lamakū Participation	120
(C) Final	100
Total	420

Missed Quizzes, Group Participation, or Final Exam

We will have about 14-15 quizzes per semester. No make-ups because we have to move on and stay sequenced. BUT, as noted above, we will count only your top 10 quiz grades. We will also count the top 12 (out of 15) course participation and Lamakū posts, with the exception noted above.

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 classes, so I can use only your top 10 grades for the quizzes and top 12 for the group work. It is very important not to miss the final exam.

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 Inc. Grades.

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

Incomplete: Usually for missing a small part of the course or final exam with a good reason.

Important

Starting Fall 2024 Honolulu Community College will no longer have the N grade option. Much to the chagrin (and protest) of many HCC faculty, our Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs eliminated this safety valve option.

Traditionally this grade (No grade, similar to a W grade) was used when a student showed significant early engagement in a course but ran into trouble with life issues just before and/or after the last drop date. Instructors would assign an N-grade, so the student's GPA was not damaged with an F grade.

Sometimes life issues interfere significantly with focusing on assignments and a student gets too far behind. Now for students who for whatever reason are too far behind to pass the class, and did not drop the course by the deadline, the only option is an F grade. An Incomplete grade is only for missing an exam for good reasons (see above) or a small part of the course work, not for situations for missing many assignments.

Advice:

- Be sure to know when the last day to drop (withdraw from) a course is. It is usually about 11 weeks after the start date for the 16-week version of this course.
- Drop the course before the last day to withdraw if life issues are significantly interfering with focusing on assignments. I will be giving you warnings in Grades. Be realistic about how far behind you are if you have missed a lot of assignments.

If you don't drop the course in time, please note that I have only the F option now if you do not have enough points to pass the course. If you do get an F grade, there is a semester forgiveness option, but you have to contact the Dean of Students office. Instructors cannot be involved in that process.

Best:



Rigorously follow the course protocol steps each week. Don't miss assignments. No makeups but you get to drop some low grades. But only "some"! See above.

For students who fall behind due to life issues, six or more will be missed! Sometimes a student will experience a rough patch in the assignments and miss six or more, but then get it together, catch up, do well on the final and pass the course. VERY RARE, however. Try to be realistic given your situation.

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

Autocratic vs Democratic value assumptions

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.

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