Instructor Info:
Dr. Douglas Eli Julien Email: Doug.Julien@tamut.edu
Office: UC 234 Phone: 930-334-6662
Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00
   Tuesdays: 2:30-4:00
   Wednesdays: 10:00-11:00
   Thursdays: 2:30-4:00
   And by appointment

Course Description:
This course aims at being an introduction to philosophical thinking and thinking in general rather than a survey of philosophical doctrines, movements, or methods. As such, the course is “topics based” and takes up questions of the theory of knowledge, moral philosophy, critical thinking, and so on looking at what historical and contemporary philosophers have said about them. In addition the course provides an orientation to the concept of philosophical argument, its forms, and the way arguments ought to be analyzed.

There are no prerequisites. The course is required for four-year honors students.

Required Texts:
*Philosophy Goes to the Movies: An introduction to philosophy* 2nd Edition by Christopher Falzon

Student Learner Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete Philosophy 1301 will be able

1. to demonstrate an awareness of the scope and variety of philosophical views, issues, and arguments.
2. to critically appraise classical, influential, and contemporary arguments concerning the knowledge, values, and beliefs.
3. to formulate arguments using the methods of philosophical inquiry in everyday life and language.
Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation:

1. In-class exams (3)
   A. There are three in-class exams that must be completed during the semester. Each exam will consist of questions related to philosophical terms; identification of philosophers, views, and arguments; and multiple “shorter-answer” questions based on interpretation. Students will answer in as much detail as possible by supporting their answers with the material presented in the course. Honors students enrolled in the course will be required to complete a take-home essay question in addition to the in-class question. **THE FINAL IS COMPREHENSIVE.**
   B. Each exam is worth 200 points for a total of 600 points. Honors students exams are worth 300 points for a total of 900 points.

2. Participation in class sessions
   A. You will need a healthy stack of 3 X 5 notecards. At the end of each class, you will be evaluating the day that was and have this as a venue to ask questions that you were afraid to ask, critique what just happened, tell me how wonderful or dismal I am—they basically become your ballots on the course. More on this when it comes time to “vote.” This will be your participation score, so things like “no comment” and “I hate these notecards” will not garner you participation points.
   B. Each notecard is worth 5 points and there are 28 class sessions with cards for a total of 140 points.

3. Analytic Papers
   A. Students will prepare two analytic papers using methods of philosophical inquiry to an everyday situation. A specific rubric will be given at the time of the assignment; however, generally the text should employ a specific line of philosophical inquiry utilizing philosophical terminology and will be at least 5 pages long. Honors students papers will be at least 10 pages in length and require sources outside the course text.
   B. Each paper is worth 200 points for a total of 400 points. Honors student papers are worth 300 points for a total of 600 points.

Grading Scale:

- A = 90% – 100%
- B = 80% – 89%
- C = 70% -- 79%
- D = 60% -- 69%
- F = 0% -- 59%
**Complete Course Schedule:**
As with any syllabus you receive this week, this schedule is subject to change.

**Week #1:**

**Theory of Knowledge**

8/28 – Introduction to the Me and the Course
   Handout Plato “The Allegory of the Cave”

8/30 – Falzon 19-25
   Plato
   Handout Descartes “Meditation I & II”

**Week #2:**

9/4 – Continued discussion

9/6 – No Class; Doug Visits the Kidney Punchers in Dallas
   Visit that place on the 3rd and 4th floor with all the books

**Week #3:**

9/11 – Falzon 25-46
   Descartes
   Handout Kant “Critique of Pure Reason”

9/13 – Continued Discussion

**Week #4:**

9/18 – Falzon 46-54
   Kant
   Handout Freud Selections from “The Ego and the Id”

9/20 – Continued Discussion

**Week #5:**

**The Self and Personal Identity**

9/25 -- Falzon 57-69
   Freud
   Handout Nietzsche Selections from “The Gay Science”

9/27 – Continued Discussion
Week #6:
10/2 – Falzon 69-79
Nietzsche
Handout Locke Selections from “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding”

10/4 – Continued Discussion
First Paper Assigned

Week #7:
10/9 – Falzon 79-97
Locke
Handout Aquinas “Five Proofs”

10/11 – Exam 1

Week #8:  
Moral Philosophy

10/16 – Falzon 99-123
Aquinas
Handout Sartre Selections from “Being and Nothingness”

10/18 – Continued Discussion

Week #9:
10/23 – Falzon 124-140
Sartre
Handout Hobbes Selections from “Leviathan”

10/25 – Continued Discussion

Week #10:
Social and Political Philosophy

10/30 – Falzon 141-156
Hobbes
Handout Marx “The Communist Manifesto”

11/1—Continued Discussion
**Week #11:**
11/6 – Falzon 156-168
   Marx
   Handout Foucault Selections from “Discipline and Punish”

**Paper #1 Due**

11/8—Continued Discussion
**Paper #2 Assigned**

**Week #12:**
11/13 – Falzon 168-177
   Foucault
   Handout Habermas

11/15 – Exam 2

**Week #13:**

   **Society, Science and Technology**

11/20 – Falzon 181-194
   Habermas

11/22 – No Class

**Week #14:**
11/27 – Continued Discussion
   Handout Baudrillard Selections from “Simulacra and Simulation”

11/29 – Falzon 195-212
   Baudrillard

**Week #15:**
12/4 – Falzon 215-244

12/6 – Continued Discussion

**Week #16:**
12/11 – Final Exam
**Paper #2 Due**
**Student Participation:**
There is no attendance policy for the course. My job is to teach you each class, make it interesting and vital to you whenever I can, and make coming to class, at the very least, seem necessary. Your job is to come or keep up when unable. Three caveats. The first caveat I would add is that I will work as hard as I possibly can to make sure that if you’re not attending class regularly, it will be very difficult to do well—that is also my job. The second is that I’m not interested in trying to repeat a day, week, or month of what happened in my office—class is unrepeatable. The final caveat is that there is a participation component to your grade, and it is difficult to participate if you are not here.

**Disability Accommodations:**
Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

**Statement on email usage:** Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

**University Drop Policy:** To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website ([http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html](http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html)) or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email ([Registrar@tamut.edu](mailto:Registrar@tamut.edu)), mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.