University of Hawai‘i – Honolulu Community College
GENERAL EDUCATION - Diversification Designation
Certification and Recertification

Application Form
Spring 2012

APPLICANT: Chris Ann Moore  E-MAIL: chrismoo@hawaii.edu

COURSE ALPHA and NUMBER:  Phil 100

COURSE TITLE:  Introduction to Philosophy

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SECTIONS:  Fall 3  Spring 3

APPLICATION IS FOR:
  □ New Course  □ Modified Course  □X Existing Course  □ Re-designation
  □ Certification  □X Re-Certification. Date of last certification: 2005

DIVERSIFICATION AREA DESIGNATION SOUGHT:
  □ DA (Arts)
  □ DB (Biological Sciences)
  □X DH (Humanities)
  □ DL (Literature and Language)
  □ DP (Physical Sciences)
  □ DS (Social Sciences)
  □ DY (Laboratory)
What percentage of the CONTENT of this course focuses on this diversification area?
100

What percentage of CLASS MEETINGS focuses on this diversification area?
100

For guidelines and explanatory notes for each of the following questions, please consult the Guidelines located at the end of this document.

1. Please explain how course-specific SLOs align with the diversification area’s hallmarks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hallmark 1: This course uses the terminology of historical, philosophical, language or religious studies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLO 1: 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLO 2: Define, describe and utilize some of the basic concepts of major areas of philosophical inquiry: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Theology and Ethics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation: Through readings and lectures, students are taught philosophical terminology, the various areas of philosophical inquiry, and the arguments and reasoning of key figures in the Western philosophical tradition as well as some the insights of other cultures and traditions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hallmark 2: This course involves texts, artifacts, concepts, processes, theories or issues of concern in these studies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLO 3: Utilize the methods of philosophical inquiry: Critical Thinking, Critical Reading, Critical Writing and various criteria to test belief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students are taught the skills of inductive and deductive reasoning and to recognize fallacious reasoning. They are also taught to apply these skills in thinking, reading and writing and in evaluating philosophical ideas and arguments, their own, their fellow classmate’s and those of major figures in the canon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hallmark 3: This course demonstrates inquiry that involves the methods of study, reflection, evidence-gathering, and argumentation that are employed in these studies.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLO 4: Employ the above concepts and methods to analyze and evaluate philosophical ideas and...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
arguments, to evaluate their own beliefs and to formulate their own arguments in answer to fundamental philosophical questions.

Students must also develop, articulate and present their own philosophical arguments in answer to some of the “great philosophical questions.”
Explain **assessment strategies** you plan to use (or have used, in the case of recertification) to measure the degree to which students exit the course with the course-specific SLOs. If there are multiple sections of the course taught by different instructors, please discuss how assessment will be carried out across instructors.

Students must demonstrate proficiency in the expected SLO's in class discussions, homework assignments and on midterm and final exams in which they must define and describe philosophical terms, articulate famous philosophical arguments, evaluate these arguments and present their own reasoned arguments. Further, students must write two papers articulating and evaluating a philosophical argument and presenting their own reasoned arguments on the topic in question. In addition Student Evaluations are given every semester. Assessment across instructors is accomplished through meeting and discussion. All instructors use the same SLO's, the same textbook and the same student evaluations. All assessment tools are similar and measure progress in course SLO's. In meetings the instructors discover their successes and areas for improvement and propose strategies to implement these improvements.

2. **Assessment of assessment.** How have you used the assessment findings to modify or improve this course?

Every semester the course has been modified in response to assessment finding. As just a few examples: We have de-emphasized memorization in order to highlight critical thinking skills, we began providing outlines for all papers, which helped students enormously in organizing information, we have increased the amount of group work, which has aided in student enjoyment, bonding and retention, and have devoted more lecture time to clarifying course requirements and expectations. This list goes on and on.

---

**DIVERSIFICATION BOARD DECISION:**

☑ Approved

Re-Certification Due: \[S\text{2017}\]

☐ Not approved

If not approved, reasons for disapproval:

---

Page 4 of 5
Course approved: S2012
Recertification: S2017

Diversification Board Chair Signature: [Signature]
Date: 9 Apr 2017

Page 5 of 5
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: 7-614
E-mail: chrismoo@hawaii.edu this is the BEST way to reach me. Please put Phil.100 in the subject line
Telephone: office (808) 845-9424
My personal webpage: http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/instruct/moore/
You will find important information for this course in the “Tips” section, as well as my biography, a photo gallery, and information on all the courses I teach.

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 learned. 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 epistemological 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**

- **Readings**
- 5 Homework Assignments (Review Questions and short Essays)
- Mid-Term Exam
- Mid-Term ESSAY Exam
- Final Exam
- Final ESSAY Exam
- Class Attendance and Participation

- Late Assignments will not be accepted and missed exams cannot be made up. These will receive a grade of zero except under extraordinary circumstances. Students whose fail to turn in an assignment when it is due or miss an exam must take the initiative to make an appointment and meet individually with the instructor to discuss conditions under which late assignments MAY be submitted. 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 you have requested and been given prior specific permission to do so.

- **Readings:** You will be required to read, carefully and critically, approximately one chapter per week from the assigned text as well as occasional handouts.

- **Homework Assignments:** Your assignments will be emailed to your hawaii.edu account. It is essential that you have access to this account. Five times over the course of semester you will be given Review Questions (see below) asking you to define and describe the elements of, and present the arguments for the various philosophical theories you have learned through class lecture and discussion, and your readings. You will also be asked to write two Short Essays (see below) using your own ideas and reasoning to answer some of the various philosophical questions that we have discussed in class.

- **Review Questions:** You must buy a spiral bound college-ruled notebook. Your answers to Review Questions must be handwritten in your notebook. We will review and you will correct your homework during the class session it is due. I will grade homework for completion and thoroughness during the class session it is due. Your completed, corrected,
timely and stamped homework assignments, will serve as study guides for your exams. Thus your success on the exams and therefore this course is heavily dependant on your timely, thorough completion and self-correction of your Review Sheets.

- **Essays:** Answers to essay questions must be a minimum of two full pages in length and handwritten in your notebook. They must meet all the requirements of college level writing. Slang is unacceptable. You will read, and we will all discuss, the answers to the essay questions. Essays will be graded for completion and thoroughness during the class section they are due. The questions on your Essay Exams will be drawn from these homework essays.

- **Mid-Term and Final Exams:** You will be given two comprehensive exams asking you 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 Assignments. The Mid-term exam will be on Homework Assignments I-II. The Final Exam will be on Homework Assignments III-IV.

- **Midterm and Final Essay Exams:** At mid-term and again for finals week you will be required to write a three to four page essay detailing your argument on a philosophical question. For the Mid-term you will be asked to pick and expand on one of your essays from Homework Assignment I-II. At finals you will pick and expand on an essay question from Homework Assignments III-V. Therefore, it will be very important for you to listen to and take notes on your fellow students essays and my comments; for ideas, for arguments, for clarification of your own position, etc.

- **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. Class attendance and participation will be reflected in your grade as explained in class. If you do miss a class, you should check your curriculum, so you will know what you have missed. Read the indicated chapter, get notes from a fellow student and then see me during office hours for any questions you may have. 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. 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.
• **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:** You are expected to submit your own work. 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.

• **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 in this 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.

- Midterm Paper....................................................... 20%
- Final Paper............................................................. 20%
- Mid-Term Exam..................................................... 20%
- Final Exam............................................................ 20%
- Homework Assignments (Review questions and Essays)...20%
- 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.