	Austin Community College Austin, Texas, USA Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1301) Professor Arthur C. Dechene, Jr., Ph.D.							
			9	Syllabus				
			Sprin	g Session 2011				
Th	iere are ma	ny clickable links to	websites in the online	version of this syllabus, w	hich is linked o	on the course home page.		
Sync Sect	onym: ion:	25286 049	Campus: Room:	South Austin 1315	Days: Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:20-2:40pm (80 minutes)		
For Yo	our Imme	diate Attentior	n on the First Day of	f Class				
٠	The fol	lowing are requ	ired assignments to	be completed befor	e the next o	lass		
		ad this syllabus n the next class	, ,	g in it or missing from	n it that you	don't understand, ask abou		
	• Rea	ad the <u>course d</u>	escription (linked or	n the course home w	eb page).			
	• Go	to Assignment	ts and Announcem	ents for PHIL 1301	on the cou	rse home web page and de		
	wh	atever is assign	ed there. Check tha	t page frequently.				
Conta	ct Inform	ation						
٠	Email t	he professor: a	dechene@austincc.	edu.				
٠	Home _l	page of the cou	rse Web site: <u>http:/</u>	/www.austincc.edu/a	adechene/.			
•	genera some r	lly should be to	speak with me. If I	cannot resolve the p	problem or s	rour professor your first ste satisfy your concern, or, if fo an appeal to the Chair of the		
Office		-	ith the Professor					
•	Before	or after class m	ost class days. Mak	e appointment in cla	ss or by ema	ail.		
Cours	e Descrip	tion	·					
•		-	ue: "Students will I actice of philosophic		ious signific	cant philosophical issues and		
•						historical (history of philoso philosophies, questions, and		
	• An	nore extensive	description of the co	ourse is linked on the	course hor	nepage.		
Prerec	quisites							
٠	There a	ire no course pi	rerequisites, other t	han:				
	• A p	assing score or	the equivalent on t	he reading portion of	f the TASP is	s required.		
	• Bas	sic computer sk	ills.					
	•	The ability to f	ind textual material	ls for the course on t	he Internet	and print them.		

40	installed on your computer to read them				
	installed on your computer to read them.				
41	PDF readers are available to download for free. I recommend Foxit Reader.				
42	• The ability to play and listen to audio materials. I recommend the free Media Player Classic for				
43 44	Windows (which is used at ACC), or the Google Chrome browser, which has a built-in media				
	player.				
45	The ability to email the professor if necessary.				
46	The ability to look up your grade information on Blackboard.				
47	 Note: This course requires serious study and the ability to read well (it is a college level course). 				
48	 As with most courses, you can expect you will need to study about two hours for every class hour. 				
49	 If you need help improving your reading and studying methods: 				
50	 Read <u>Professor Dechene's how to study guide</u>, linked on the course home page. 				
51	 Visit the Learning Lab on your campus and speak with one of the staff. 				
52	• ACC offers courses on reading and study skills. See "Reading Skills" and "Study Skills" in the course				
53	schedule booklet.				
54	• You can also find help at several Websites, for example, <u>How-To-Study.com</u> . Google "how to study				
55	effectively" to find many websites on improving study skills.				
56	Required Readings				
57	• For the required textbook and other readings, go to "Required Readings" on the course home web-				
58	page.				
59	Instructional Methodology				
60	Lecture and discussion in class, and homework.				
61	 Audio and video presentations (some may be homework). 				
62	 Required readings (textbook and other). 				
63	• Tests.				
64	Course Rationale				
65	• Philosophy is one of the principal forces that have shaped Western civilization and history, so a basic				
66	understanding of the methods and subject matter of philosophy affords a deeper understanding of				
67	ourselves and an informed grasp of the present. In addition, critical thinking skills are so central to the				
68	methods of philosophy that the study of philosophy provides an excellent opportunity to learn and				
69	practice those skills in a focused way.				
70	Course Objectives				
71	Departmental Objectives/Outcomes				
72	 Students will demonstrate improved critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. 				
73	• Students will be able to reason philosophically about issues of both personal and universal signific-				
74	ance.				
75	 Students will be able to identify major divisions and concepts in philosophy. 				
76	Course Evaluation/Grading System				
77	• The final grade for this course will be based on four tests, one short essay, and on attendance.				
78	• Tests and the essay will account for 100% of your final numeric grade before deduction of days ab-				
79	sent.				
80	• Each test/essay will account for 25% of your final grade.				

81 82	 Four tests/one essay will be administered/required, and your lowest grade of these five will be ignored in final grading.
83 84	 Thus, students may skip one test or the essay without penalty (but not skipping one of these may increase your chance of receiving a higher final grade).
85	Absenteeism will lower your final grade.
86	 One point will be deducted from your final numeric grade for:
87	Each class missed.
88	 Arriving late (arriving after roll has been called).
89	 Leaving class before the end of the class without the professor's prior permission.
90 91	 Students who first start attending the course after the first class will be marked absent for the classes they missed at the beginning of the course.
92 93	 There will be no excused absences—you're either present or absent. Thus, you need not bring excuses such as a physician's note to justify your absence.
94 95	 If you have to leave a class before it ends, please have the courtesy to inform the professor at the beginning of the class (if possible), and sit close to the door.
96 97	 Coming in late disturbs the flow of the class, so please be on time. Students who come late four times (i.e., on four days) will be dropped from the course.
98	• Tests.
99 100	 Tests usually will be Scantron-type (true/false, multiple choice, and/or matching), but may be part- ly or entirely essay type.
101 102	 Students must supply their own green Scantron cards and a #2 pencil for Scantron tests. These can be purchased in the ACC Bookstore.
103 104	 Scantron cards cannot be filled out with other media, such as pen, because our Scantron grad- ing machines do not recognize anything other than #2 pencil.
105 106 107	 Scantron cards will not grade properly if they are creased, wrinkled, or dog-eared. Use only cards that are in their original condition. If a Scantron card will not grade properly, the student will not receive a grade.
108 109	 Recommendation: marks on Scantron cards do not erase easily, so bring an eraser that you know works well for this purpose. Standard pencil-top erasers do not work well.
110 111	 Each test, including the last test, will emphasize material covered since the previous test (for test 1, since the first day of class), with less emphasis on material from before that.
112 113	 See the course calendar for dates of tests. Tests may be rescheduled to fit better with the cover- age of topics in class, or for other appropriate reasons.
114 115	 Tests will normally last 45 minutes, and will start at the beginning of the class. If you arrive late for class on the test day you will have less than 45 minutes to complete your test.
116 117	 Students who have problems taking tests (e.g., severe test anxiety or dyslexia) should discuss this with the Office for Students with Disabilities.
118 119 120	 Test grades will be published only on <u>Blackboard</u>. Incremental and final grades will not be given out verbally, in person, by email, or to anyone other than the student, due to ACC policy and fed- eral law.
121	 Students who miss two or more tests will receive an F final grade.
122	Make-up tests.
123	• The make-up test must be completed no later than the day before the next regularly scheduled

124	test is administered.					
125	• You must have the professor's permission to take a make-up test.					
126 127	 Make-up tests will be administered in the Testing Center on the campus where your course section is taught. 					
128	• The make-up test questions and format may be different from the original.					
129	• THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TEST FOR THE FINAL TEST.					
130 131	 Extra credit assignments will not be allowed, as they give an unfair advantage to the person doing the extra assignment. 					
132 133 134	• The professor reserves the right to change various features of the testing and grading system during the course and he will give clear notice (on the Assignments and Announcements Web page, linked on the course home page) if he does so.					
135	Course Policies					
136	Attendance and Courtesy					
137 138	 Students are expected to attend all classes, to be on time, and to show courtesy toward the Professor and fellow students. 					
139 140 141 142 143	 Courtesy includes not talking with other students during class, not texting or otherwise using a cell phone, not doing things that distract or might distract other students, not eating or coming and going during class, not verbally (or physically) attacking students with whom you disagree, not repeatedly verbally advocating or representing an ideology (political, religious, other) during the class, and show- ing politeness toward the Professor and all students. 					
144 145	 If you are carrying a cell phone, turn it off in class. Should you need to keep it on (e.g., you have a sick child at home), inform the professor at the start of class. 					
146	• Eating is not appropriate in class. Neither is walking in and out during class time.					
147 148	 Students are expected to print (from the course Web site) and bring to class the material to be dis- cussed in that class. Do not attend class if you do not have the appropriate written materials. 					
149 150	• The professor has the right to order a student to leave the class. This could be for, but is not limited to, the following: discourtesy, disruptive behavior, or for not bringing required materials to class.					
151	1 Active Participation is Encouraged					
152 153	 Students are encouraged to actively participate in class by asking questions and entering into discussions that relate to the material being studied. 					
154 155	 Students are expected to ask questions in class about course materials and regulations they don't fully understand. 					
156 157	 Students may ask questions about computer problems related to the course in class (this will benefit all students). 					
158	58 Withdrawals					
159 160	• The professor has the right to withdraw (drop) a student from the course for excessive tardiness, ab- senteeism, discourteous behavior, or for other appropriate reasons.					
161 162	• Students may be withdrawn from the course if they are registered but do not attend class in the first five class-hours, or if they exceed 25% absenteeism (for any reason).					
163 164 165 166	 Withdrawing from a course may affect financial aid, veterans' benefits, international student status, or academic standing. Students are urged to consult with their instructor or an advisor before making schedule changes. Per state law, students enrolling for the first time in fall 2007 or later at any Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their under- 					

graduate college career. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a
course without having it count toward this limit. Students are encouraged to carefully select courses;
contact an advisor or counselor for assistance. See the Student Handbook, p. 22, for additional information.

171 **Problem Resolution**

If you should have any problem with the course or the instructor, please have the courtesy to discuss it
 first with the instructor.

174 Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades normally will not be issued. The only reasons accepted for granting an incomplete will be unforeseen and unforeseeable serious reasons for not being able to complete the class on time.
 The student will have to document, in detail, the reasons why s/he is requesting the incomplete, and why s/he could not have foreseen or avoided the problem, and her/his exact plan for completing the course (with completion date, which will not be extended). Most requests for an incomplete grade will be rejected.

181 Scholastic Dishonesty

• See the current edition of the Student Handbook, at http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/.

183 Academic Freedom

Students have the right to believe whatever they happen to believe and, within the appropriate constraints that follow from the organization of a course and its class meetings, to express those beliefs.
 Grades will never be based on the beliefs that a student maintains, but only on the quality of the work performed by a student in conjunction with the course.

188 Office for Students with Disabilities

- Be sure to read the section in the Student Handbook: Services for Students with Disabilities.
- Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes.
 Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.
- For students authorized by the OSD to take tests in an other-than-classroom environment, tests will be available at the Office for Students with Disabilities on the day and time the test is scheduled for the rest of the class.
- 197 Course Outline, Calendar, and Announcements
- The course calendar is hyperlinked to Professor Dechene's course home webpage.
- An announcements page is also hyperlinked there. Consult it frequently (at least once a week, more often during a condensed summer session), and always prior to tests.

201 The Student Handbook and Other ACC Information is Accessible Online

- Go to <u>http://www.austincc.edu/handbook/</u>, regarding the above items (policies, disabilities, acceptable behavior, student support services, etc.)
- Also be aware there is a great deal of useful information for students that is accessible from the ACC
 home page at http://www.austincc.edu/.
- 206 Revised January 19, 2011.