



Welcome to ITV - The Week-End College! You are enrolled in:

Philosophy 1 (7962) (UC: CSU) 3 Units

Introduction to Philosophy

A survey of the fundamental questions about self, society, and universe. Primary focus is on theories of reality, theories of knowledge, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of death.

The Weekend College classes combine video lessons with online activities and weekend class meetings. You should complete all three components to successfully pass the class. The course requirements are in the online syllabus. If you have questions contact your instructor via email or by telephone during their office hours listed above.

Instructor
Robert A. Sliff, M.A.
(818) 364-7600, ext. 7160
philosophygadfly@ca.rr.com
Office Hours
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Getting Started

Even though you do not meet with your instructor until the first weekend after the semester begins, your class begins on October 27, 2008. Follow the checklist below to get started in your class now.

1. Choose a Campus

Select the campus to attend your weekend class and make note of its time and location.

2. Buy Your Books

The back of this page lists the required and recommend books for your course. Buy your books as soon as possible so that you can get started on your assigned readings. Textbooks can be purchased at City, Southwest, Mission, Valley, and Pierce Colleges or from most online bookstores.

3. Log In

The class website opens **Oct. 27**, log in and read your course syllabus. It will list all assignments and quizzes times and due dates. You can find log-in instructions on the last page of this letter.

4. Email Your Instructor

Once you have logged in, email your instructor and let him know that you have successfully logged in to the class website.

5. Plan Your Schedule

Weekend College courses are fast paced—covering a lot of material in a short period of time. At a minimum, you can expect to spend 10 to 12 hours per week completing the assignments. Schedule time in advance for reading the textbooks, watching the video episodes, and completing the online assignments. If you plan to watch or record the videos on the educational cable channel LA 36, also note those times and set your Tivo or DVD recorder in advance. You can find the broadcast schedules on the back of this page

Classroom Location Schedule

Attend class at any one of the four campuses: L.A. City, L.A. Pierce, Southwest or L.A. Valley College. The instructor teaches at all four locations.

| Day | Campus | Time | Location |
|----------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday | Southwest College | 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon | Lecture Lab., Rm. 108 |
| | L.A. City College | 1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. | DaVinci Hall, Rm. 305 |
| Sunday | L.A. Valley College | 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon | Foreign Language Bldg., Rm 104 |
| | L.A. Pierce College | 1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. | Business Bldg., Rm 3203 |

Attendance at the class meetings is expected.
If you fail to attend, you may be dropped from class.

Fall 2008 CALENDAR

October 27 – December 20, 2008

Important Dates and Deadlines

| | |
|---|---------|
| Last Day to Add classes by STEP or Online | Oct. 26 |
| Semester Begins | Oct. 27 |
| Last Day to Drop or Change Classes | Nov. 1 |
| <i>(without Incurring Fees)</i> | |
| Cablecasts Begin on Cable Channel LA 36 | Nov. 3 |
| Last Day to ADD by FAX or in-person..... | Nov. 7 |
| Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W" | Nov. 12 |
| <i>(no refund)</i> | |
| Last Day to File for Credit/No Credit | Nov. 19 |
| Last Day to Drop with a "W" | Dec. 7 |
| <i>(After this date a grade must be issued)</i> | |

Class Meeting Schedule

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Class Meeting | Nov. 1 & 2 |
| Class Meeting | Nov. 8 & 9 |
| Class Meeting | Nov. 15 & 16 |
| Midterms Exams..... | Nov. 22 & 23 |
| No Class Meeting..... | Nov. 29 & 30 |
| Class Meeting | Dec. 6 & 7 |
| Class Meeting Saturday..... | Dec. 13 |
| Final Exam Sunday | Dec. 14 |
| Final Exam Saturday | Dec. 20 |

A photo ID is required to take exams.

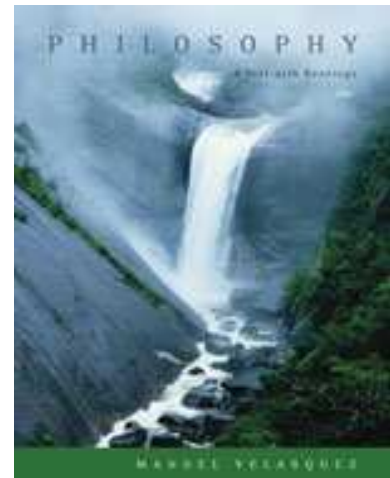
Textbooks

Required:

Title: Philosophy - A Text with Reading
Edition: 10/E, 2008 (Paperbound)
Author: Velasquez, Manuel
Publisher: Thomson/Wadsworth
ISBN: 0-495-09497-8

Recommended:

Title: The Examined Life Telecourse Study Guide
Edition: 10/E, 2008
Author: Velasquez, Manuel
Publisher: Thomson/Wadsworth
ISBN: 0-495-10302-0



Textbooks are available in the college libraries. Most libraries have the texts on Reserve, (two hour use, in the library) some libraries have copies in the General Collection. Individual Library Policies apply and they may be different at each campus. Generally, students must have a valid student ID *for the campus they intend to use*, to check out or use library materials. For example, to check out books from Pierce College Library students must have a valid Pierce College Student ID. Students who enrolled only in ITV classes may obtain a Mission College ID through the Admissions Office at Mission College.

Videos

The Examined Life

Four Ways to Watch the Videos

1. Available on the Los Angeles Educational Channel, LA 36. The broadcast schedule is:
Thursdays, Nov. 6 – Dec. 18 @ 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
2. Purchase a complete set of the DVD's from the L.A. Pierce College Bookstore:
www.piercebookstore.com or 818-347-0313
3. Available in Broadband at: www.lamission.edu/ITV
4. Watch the video lessons at the Learning Resource Centers at City, Pierce, Southwest, Valley, and Mission Colleges. You must bring your student ID or fee receipt to view the videos.

Hello Students,

Welcome to Philosophy 1, Introduction to Philosophy. The class you are about to begin is based on the outstanding video series, *The Examined Life*. The videos and the readings in the text book will be the center of our attention. But that will not be all. We will also be facing each other in class where we can talk about the questions presented, questions that are at once the most profound as well as the most practical, questions that have troubled human kind since the beginning of the break away from mythic existence, the break away initiated first by the earliest philosophers in ancient Greece. I think we can fairly say that this class deals with the most enduring concerns, concerns that are the foundation for the very continuation of culture and civilization as we know it. In the opinion of many profound thinkers, the "tissue" of civilization is very flimsy and easily torn. There are always forces that would like to destroy any civilized way of life, and these are always fueled by some kind of absolutist ideology. We will want to think about who presents these absolute ideas and what agendas these promoters are pursuing. But more than that, we want to think about who we are and how we should face our humanity. Only by addressing such questions do we have any hope of dealing fruitfully with what or who would try to destroy our autonomy. Thus, we will be dealing with a discipline (philosophy) that is the most personal and the most intellectually penetrating. Our goal, then, will not be to have you memorize some facts and spit them back on a test, but to assist you in participating in the discourse called philosophy. From this, you may come to better understand how we can seek for improvement in the future, and we may then be able to make a difference through thinking more deeply about ourselves and our world.

At a more personal level, I wish to add a couple of comments about myself. While there are more details posted on the Etudes NG class website, let me say here that my major subjects at Cal State University, Long Beach were History and Philosophy. In my graduate work, I concentrated exclusively on philosophy, though I have never given up my love of history. I guess I can say that I settled on philosophy because it is a combination of the two, in that, for me, philosophy is truly intellectual history.

It is my hope to share some of my own excitement about philosophy with you. I find philosophy the most challenging of subjects and one that never ceases to hold my attention. I hope I can cause some of my concerns to rub off on you so that you will develop an appreciation for philosophy. In this I am committed to do my best to help you.

From the more technical side of the class, please check out the Etudes NG class website as soon as you can. If you have enrolled late, there may be some delay, but you can still enter the site by using the words "guest" twice. Please look over the syllabus. It has just about everything you need to know to get started.

As the class is about to begin, I expect to see every one of you "bright and shiny" in class this November (1st or 2nd). At the first meeting we will be going over, in detail, the requirements for the course as well as looking over some of the functions of our class interface website, Etudes NG. In addition, I will offer you some introductory material on the subject matter and the nature of philosophy, since most people have trouble articulating just what the philosophy is about.

Finally, I suggest you try to get a copy of the text [*Philosophy, a Text with Readings* 10th Ed] as soon as you can and get started reading the first chapter. I also would like to recommend a wonderful little book that you may be able to find in a normal book store. It is called *Sophie's World, a novel about the history of philosophy*, by Joestin Gaarder (\$7.99). If you can pick up a copy, think of it as light reading, reading you can do in an armchair.

I look forward to seeing all of you on first weekend, the first weekend in November. Remember you can come to any of the class locations listed, Southwest College on Saturday morning, City College on Saturday afternoon, Valley College on Sunday morning and Pierce College on Sunday afternoon. See the first page of this flier times, buildings and room numbers.

Best regards,



Robert A. Sliff, M.A.
Instructor

-OVER-

Online Class Website

Step 1. Where do I go to log on to this course?

- Go to <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>
- Bookmark this page!
- Enter your user ID

Step 2. What is my User ID?

In lowercase letters and with no spaces:

- use the first 2 letters of your first name
- *and* the first 2 letters of your last name
- *and* the last 5-digits of your student ID #

Example: Donna Smith:

Student ID #: 88 455 6789

User ID:

My User ID is: _____

Step 3. What is my Password?

Using four numbers together with no spaces:

- use two numbers for your birth month
- *and* use two numbers for the birth day

Example: if your birth date was January 3

Password:

My Password is: _____

Once you have logged in you will see two sections on the top left of the page, My Workspace and on the right, your class website. Your class website begins with LAMCITYV. Click on the tab to enter the course. See the example below:



E-mail your instructor once you have successfully logged in to the course website.

NOTE TO AOL USERS: Launch either an Internet Explorer or a Netscape browser after you connect using AOL and minimize the AOL Browser. DO NOT USE THE AOL BROWSER.

Add/Drop Classes & Check Grades

Forms for adding/dropping a class or requesting an official transcript can be found at www.lamission.edu/itv. These forms can be faxed to (818) 833-3598 or brought in to our office.

To Add/Drop a class and check Official Grades online, visit www.laccd.edu.

To Add/Drop classes through the Student Telephone Enrollment Process (STEP):

1. Call (213) 689-8888 or (310) 605-0505 or (323) 226-1999 or (818) 988-2222
2. Press 0 for ITV/The Weekend College
3. Follow the instructions to complete your request

We're here to Help

If you need technical assistance logging in to your course, contact ITV Technical Support at (818) 833-3596 or send an email to mckennpg@lamission.edu. Be sure to include:

- Your full name
- Course title and instructor
- Student ID
- Your phone and e-mail address
- Date enrolled