GENERAL INFORMATION
College name: RICHLAND COLLEGE
12800 Abrams Rd, Dallas TX, 75243
Division Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts
Fannin Hall, F171 (972) 238-6250
Semester & Year Fall, 2012

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Name Elizabeth Escalante (formerly Welch)
Email eescalante@dccc.edu
Phone 972-238-6140
Office ACCESS, A110
Office hours By appointment

COURSE INFORMATION
Course number PHIL 1301
Section 8501
Credit hours 3
Class time 5:40pm--7:00pm, MW, Room M140
Course title Introduction to Philosophy

COURSE DESCRIPTION
PHIL 1301-- Introduction to Philosophy: (3) This is a common course number. An introduction to the ideas about such things as the good life, reality, God, the acquisition and characteristics of knowledge, and the nature of humans. Students will evaluate both ancient and modern theories about these issues in terms of their logic, historical significance, and meaning in everyday life, as they practice the methods for doing philosophy.

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in reading.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
title: Ultimate Questions: Thinking About Philosophy
author: Nils Ch. Rauhut
edition: 3rd
copyright year: 2011
publisher: Prentice Hall

ECAMPUS ACCESS
All students enrolled in this course are also automatically enrolled in an online module
for the course available at: ecampus.dcccd.edu. Be sure to access the Fall, 2012 log in screen.

The syllabus is available on eCampus along with homework assignments and other materials, i.e., handouts and instruction sheets, so that they are readily available for you. A gradebook is available on eCampus where you can follow your grades. Check this frequently during the semester.

GENERAL EDUCATION
This course reinforces some of the Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies. (DCCCD Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Intellectual Competencies Coordinating Board.

READING: Reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials, books, articles, and documents.

WRITING: Competency in writing is the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience.

CRITICAL THINKING: Critical thinking embraces methods of applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address and identify a task.

COMMUNICATION: To develop skills in oral, visual, and written communication.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
During this course, you will be able to:
1. Apply critical thinking skills by explaining and assessing strengths and weaknesses of a philosophical position or theory.
2. Argue for informed answers to selected philosophical questions.
3. Research complex issues, synthesize data and present conclusions about issues.
Throughout the course, you will find that an open mind that researches and listens is a key requirement for a good discussion and analysis of issues.

Richland College's Quality Enhancement Plan--Learning to Learn: Developing Learning Power
Richland College is piloting its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in select classes. The QEP provides techniques, practices, and tools to help students develop the habits, traits or behaviors needed to be effective and successful lifelong learners in college and in life. For more information, please log onto http://www.richlandcollege.edu/qep2013/.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS
• Reading assignments. Homework reading assignments are listed in the course schedule. Please have the material read on time so that you will be able to contribute to class discussions.
• **Response papers.** You will write THREE short papers as responses to reading selections. Each paper is worth 100 points (300 total). More information will be provided in a separate handout.

• **In-class activities.** You will participate in SIX in-class activities which are worth 50 points each for a total of 300 points.

• **Ethics assignment.** You will do an interview-based ethics assignment worth 100 points.

• **Classroom performance.** You will be graded on your classroom performance and participation. 100 points.

• **Final paper.** 100 points.

• **Final exam.** worth 100 points.

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**EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

- Response papers: 3 @ 100pts = 300
- In-class activities: 6 @ 50 pts = 300
- Ethics assignment: 1 @ 100pts = 100
- Classroom performance: 100pts = 100
- Final paper: 1 @ 100pts = 100
- Final Exam: 1 @ 100pts = 100

- **TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 1000**

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**GRADING SCALE**

- 90% 900+ POINTS = A
- 80% 800-899 POINTS = B
- 70% 700-799 POINTS = C
- 60% 600-699 POINTS = D
- <60% 0-599 POINTS = F

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**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar's Office by the due date (Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012). Failure to formally withdraw will result in your receiving a performance grade for the class, usually an F. If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a W in each class dropped. See Institutional Policies for additional information on withdrawals.

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**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

In order to be successful, students must attend and participate in enrolled courses. You have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with your Instructor when an absence occurs. You are still responsible for all assignments and due dates even if you are absent. Late work is not accepted except in extreme circumstances.
CLASSROOM POLICIES

PARTICIPATION POLICY:
Philosophy is best learned by doing it. A good deal of every class period will be devoted to discussion. Plan on taking part. One or two thoughtful questions or comments every day are worth more than boatloads of inanities. No willfully wasting class time with arguing for the sake of arguing, please.

One thing I insist upon is that you show complete and utter respect for each other (and for me).

Refrain from carrying on side conversations when someone else has the floor. The temptation is great to make side comments to your neighbor, but please, let us all benefit from your jewels of wisdom, not just your immediate neighbor. Your classmates (and your classroom performance grade) will suffer if you are a source of distraction to your fellow classmates or to me.

Remember, when you disagree, do so in a civilized manner. Challenge each other's ideas, not each other.

A note about technology in class---you may use your laptop to take notes and for other specifically approved actions, but I expect you to refrain from using it for other purposes (such as visiting Facebook, Twitter, or Youtube). Also, make sure your cellphone is silenced, your headphones are put away, etc. If you have any questions about what constitutes a legitimate use of technology, please ask.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:
Be advised that we will sometimes discuss controversial issues and indelicate topics that are usually sidestepped in polite company. You may find some material or some positions offensive. Never be afraid to challenge any position--just remember that you must be prepared to back up any challenges you make with good arguments.

You are equally encouraged to challenge any arguments that I make. You will not offend me by disagreeing with me. In fact, I may not even agree with me. I will often play the devil's advocate. Unless you ask me directly, you may not be able to tell what my stand is on an issue, if I stand anywhere at all. After 30 years of doing philosophy (or perhaps because of them?), I still have more questions than answers.

CLASS DISRUPTIONS:
Please keep classroom disruptions to a minimum. Silence all cell phones. Be on time and don't leave early. Please address all biological urges and addictions before or after class. If your urges get the better of you, please slip out surreptitiously and slip back in stealthily so as not to disturb the flow of my lectures. I am not pretty when my flow is disturbed.
Please remove any and all trash that you have generated including food and drink debris.

**COURSE OUTLINE**
There follows a general outline of topics considered in this course. For maximum success in this course, you should spend a minimum of 9 hours per week working on course material.

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Philosophical methodology</td>
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<td>Arguments and fallacies</td>
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<td>The problem of free will</td>
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<td>The Mind/Body problem</td>
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<td>Philosophy of religion</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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**ACADEMIC PROGRESS**
Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester. Check www.richlandcollege.edu/admissions/process.php for more details.

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**
For institutional policies on Academic Honesty, Religious Holy days, etc., please refer to http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabusInformation.pdf

**DISCLAIMER:**
The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.