Philosophy  PHIL-2306  Sections 2401 & 9003:  Ethics, Fall 2012
BHC & DCCCD Telecollege
Course runs: September 12, 2012-December 13, 2012
Dallas County Community College District, Social Sciences
Instructor: Michael Harding
e-mail: mharding@dcccd.edu

Course Description:
Consideration of what constitutes a good and moral life. Using classical and
contemporary theories, students will weigh such ingredients as pleasure, duty, power, and love as
they apply to current issues of daily living. Students may consider ethical problems in business,
law, and medicine. (3 hours)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015312.

Communication: I try to review and grade all newly posted material weekly. Also, you can expect
me to respond to your e-mails normally within 48 hours. Be aware that while this is my general
and intended practice, it is subject to the changes and chances of life—especially when papers are
due. Also: MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR CURRENT AND CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IN
ECAMPUS! Also make sure that you check it regularly. If you don’t, you may miss out on
important announcements.

Technical Requirements and Support
PHIL 2306-2420/9001 requires access to a computer, the Internet and e-mail. If you should have
any technical difficulties, send an e-mail to ecampus.support@dcccd.edu or call 972-669-6402.
Also alert the instructor concerning any technical problems (if they affect your ability to turn in
work. I can’t troubleshoot your computer for you, though). Everything you need to know about
the Dallas Community Colleges and distance education can be found at the Dallas TeleCollege
website: http://dallastelecollege.dcccd.edu/ The eCampus Technical Support and Help Desk can
be found at http://dallastelecollege.dcccd.edu/

Course Objectives:
1. Students should learn to think critically about ethicists and their theories.
2. Students should learn to think critically about personal and social moral issues and to
apply classical and contemporary moral theories to issues by balancing obligations,
consequences and moral ideals.
3. Students should learn to recognize and critique ethical messages as they appear in
cultural texts.

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (CCIC):
This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies defined by the
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
1. Reading: the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials, books,
documents, and articles – above 12th grade level.
2. Writing: the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose,
ocasion and audience – above 12th grade level.
3. Speaking: the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language.
4. Listening: analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess
sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading – above 12th grade level.
5. Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level.
Exemplary Educational Objective (EEO) in Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts:
This course satisfies the following Exemplary Education Objectives in Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts set forth by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
1. To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. To respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

Texas Success Initiative
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student’s basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college-level classes. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. Additional information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/admiss/tsi_requirements.cfm


Course Requirements:

1. **Exams** - you will have three exams, each worth 25% of the final grade, and each of which must be submitted to me via email by the due date. I will provide, one week in advance, up to five possible essay questions for you to prepare for. On the day of the exam, you will be presented with two or three, and you will choose one to write on. Please note: you are expected to write an actual essay, with paragraphs and a discernible, coherent argument. Do not expect to receive a good grade if you submit one brief paragraph of stream-of-consciousness writing. Pay attention to grammar as well: if I can’t understand what you’re saying, it means that you probably don’t understand what you’re trying to say. Strive for clarity in thought, and it will show itself on your exam. Lastly, plagiarism will result in an automatic failure for the course. Do not pass anyone else’s work off as your own, do not cut and paste from Wikipedia, the Stanford Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, or any other sources. Do not assume that you can trust everything you read on the Internet. Nothing you find there can substitute for reading the arguments and discussing them with your peers. Needless to say, any academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in an automatic failure for the course. Please keep in mind that I will submit your papers to turnitin.com.

2. **The final 25% of your grade** will be based on participation in the discussion board. You must participate in discussions of 9 out of the 11 subject tabs (in the reading list below) in order to receive full credit for this. Each week of discussion will be worth ten points, for a total of 90 points (the final ten points will be awarded for introducing
yourselves to the class in the beginning of the course). I will post questions about topics related the reading assignment for the week, and students will debate and discuss them. It is expected that you will argue (gently, and *politely*—remember, someone can disagree with you without being a bad person. *No profanity, and no insults*) with each other as you work through the issues involved. I will provide initial questions for you, but the bulk of the discussion should be from the students. If you are *not* contributing to the discussion board, you will not receive credit for them. I will grant points for both the amount of participation (that is how frequently you join in during each exchange) as well as for the quality of that participation (keeping to the point, presenting cogent arguments, behaving yourselves when dealing with controversial topics, etc.), and I may even grant extra-credit if your contributions go above and beyond what is appropriate. You will have to be an *active* participant in the class, over the course of the semester, and if you are not responding to anybody else’s posts, you will not receive full credit. Also note: posts on the discussion board should adhere to the standard rules of written English. “Ur” is not an acceptable way of writing “your” or “you’re,” nor is “4” an acceptable way of writing “for.” Do not write as though you are writing a text message to your friends. Lastly, *you cannot do all the discussion board posts at the last minute.* If you are not keeping up with the class and doing them over the course of the semester, you will not receive credit for them (i.e., if you do the second discussion board two days before the semester ends, you won’t receive credit—*because at that point, the class has moved on, and you are not participating in the conversation*).

**Please note:** this is *not* a self-paced course. **Deadlines matter.** If there are circumstances that are relevant to deadlines, contact me *before* you miss the deadline, not after.

**Grading Scale:**
- 90-100=A
- 80-89=B
- 70-79=C
- 60-69=D
- 0-59=F

Final grades will be assigned according to your work average as shown above, and will *not* be released by e-mail or fax in order to protect the student’s privacy.

**Getting Your End-of-Term Course Grade:**
Grade reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online (E-Connect) or by telephone (DCCCD Touch Tone Services). Online: [http://econnect.dcccd.edu/grades.html](http://econnect.dcccd.edu/grades.html). You will need your student ID number and password to login. Telephone: 972-613-1818.

**Attendance Policy:**
Since this is an online course, attendance policy is a somewhat ambiguous phrase. Your attendance will be marked through your participation in online discussions.

**Religious Holidays:**
Absences for observances of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within one week of the absence.

**ADA Statement:**
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact the BHC College Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

Withdraw Dates:
If you are unable to complete this course, you must withdraw by the dates listed in the official Schedule of Classes. This is a formal procedure, which you must initiate. I cannot do it for you. You may do this in Admissions or counseling. If you stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a grade based on your performance—usually an F.

Stop Before You Drop:
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions.
Remember, that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W.” Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Third Attempt:
Effective for the Fall semester of 2005, the DCCCD will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for the same course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition being charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged at a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the DCCCD schools since the Fall 2002 semester.

Financial Aid:
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Make-up Exams:
Due to the nature of the course, there will be no make-up exams. If I give you one week to write an assignment, it will not be accepted later than the specified deadline, and you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you have unusual circumstances that will warrant no penalty, please speak with the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. The Student Code of Conduct, which is printed in the college catalog, prescribes penalties for students found guilty of any form of “academic dishonesty.” According to this Code, any student found guilty of cheating, fabrication, facilitation academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or collusion may receive an F in the course and be suspended from college. For the purposes of this course, a single deliberate act of plagiarism will result in failure for the course, regardless of performance in other areas of evaluation. Furthermore, I will write a letter to the dean of the College recommending your expulsion. Your
enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Brookhaven College Catalog.

The instructor has the right to add, delete or revise segments of this course or syllabus, including assignments, policies, and due-dates.

**Rough schedule of readings and assignments.** (Changes may occur as needed.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complete reading and discussion boards by midnight on this date:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09/21/12</td>
<td>Moral Theory:</td>
<td>Aristotle (pg. 51)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Classical</td>
<td>Aquinas: Natural law (PDF, posted in <em>Course Documents</em>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>Hobbes (1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Modern</td>
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<tr>
<td>The First Exam will be posted in the Announcements section on September 24, and will be due in my email 7 days later, on October 1. Make sure your email information is up to date!</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/05/12</td>
<td><strong>Terrorism &amp; War</strong></td>
<td>Schefler (95); Steinhoff (100); Wolfendale (107); Wasserstrom (115); Ryan (124); Korematsu (126)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12/12</td>
<td><strong>Animals</strong></td>
<td>Singer (158); Steinbock (167)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19/12</td>
<td><strong>Cloning &amp; Abortion</strong></td>
<td><em>President’s Council</em> (192); <em>Roe v. Wade</em> (206); Thomson (211); Marquis (231)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26/12</td>
<td><strong>Love &amp; Sex</strong></td>
<td>Kant (285); Finnis (289); Goldman (291); Mohr (299)</td>
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<td>The Second Exam will be posted in the Announcements section on October 26, 2012, and will be due in my email 7 days later, on November 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/02/12</td>
<td><strong>Family &amp; Friendship</strong></td>
<td>Bennett &amp; Sullivan (328); Posner (339); LaFollette (343)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/09/12</td>
<td><strong>Politics (‘The Ideal State’)</strong></td>
<td>Locke (369); Machan (375);</td>
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Mill (386); Mill (394);

11/16/12  Continued/ Patriotism, Civil Disobedience & The Rule of Law  Rawls (399); MacIntyre (412)

Thanksgiving Break

11/30/12  Markets, Property, and the Global Economy  Nozick (452); Rawls (461); Kelo (473)

The Final Exam will be announced on December 1, 2012. It will be due in my email no later than 4:00 PM on December 13 (this gives you nearly two weeks to write it). If it is not in my email by 4:00 PM, I will not grade it. That means you should not put off sending it to me until the last minute.