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.

Course Pre-requisites:
Students enrolling in this course should have completed Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Materials/Supplies Needed:
3. You must also purchase two “Examination Books” from the bookstore (also known as “Green Books” or “Blue Books” because they are light green or light blue). You will need an examination book for each of the two in-class exams.
4. PowerPoint presentations, additional readings, and other materials for this course are located at eCampus.

Intellectual Competencies:
This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies as 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 the 12th grade level.

2. **Writing**: the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience – above the 12th grade level.

3. **Critical Thinking**: think and analyze at a critical level.

**Exemplary Educational Objectives:**

This course satisfies the following Exemplary Educational 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.

**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.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the primary deontological, teleological, and virtue-based moral theories.
2. Apply critical thinking skills by explaining and assessing strengths and weaknesses of a moral position or theory.
3. Argue for his or her own informed answers to selected moral dilemmas.

**Course Outline:**

I. **Method of Instruction and Course Requirements:**

   This course will follow a format based upon lecture, class discussion, PowerPoint presentations, and Common Book presentations. You are expected to be present and prepared for class each day we meet. This means that each day we meet you will have read the assignment and will be prepared to ask questions about material you found puzzling or unclear. The reading may not always be easy, thus, it may be necessary to take notes on important points and items you find difficult, puzzling or unclear. 

   Class discussion is vital for a philosophy course, and we will all get more out of the class if we are engaged in discussions. Participation in discussions will only help all of us. It is to your advantage to read every assignment thoroughly, attend every class, and participate in discussions as much as possible.

   1. **Quizzes** – I will give you several reading-quizzes throughout the semester. Most of the quizzes will almost certainly come from the assigned reading for the day on which they are given. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason. The grading scale for the quizzes is the following: 10-9=A, 8=B, 7=C, 6=D, 5-0=F.

   2. **Exams** - you will have three exams. The last (final) exam will be a “take-home” exam. For the two “in-class” exams you must purchase and bring to class an “examination book.” Do not write anything on the examination book, as I will trade yours for someone else’s before the exam—the examination book you buy will not be the book you write your exam in. Exams will be objective and will cover material from lectures, texts, discussion, PowerPoint presentations, and handouts. The
final, “take-home,” exam is due on the day of the scheduled final exam. The essay questions for final exam will be given one week before the due date. (See the Class Schedule below.)

3. **Common Book Presentations** – Please refer to the course schedule of readings and assignments in this syllabus for details. I will also give you more information about the assignments for the Common Book presentations in class.

4. **Extra Credit Service Learning** - Students who successfully complete a Service Learning project will be given 25 points, added to the lowest exam before averaging. Students who complete a project but who do not attend a Reflection Meeting will earn 20 points. Enrollment must be done early in the semester. Please see Dr. Anne Grissom in W259 for information and enrollment in Service Learning projects.

II. **Course Schedule of Readings and Assignments.** (Changes may occur as needed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHIL 2306-6501: Ethics</strong>: MW, 6:00 p.m. - 7:20 p.m., W269</td>
<td><strong>The Context</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>08/27</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course/Syllabus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“What is Moral Philosophy”?</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/29</td>
<td>Intro, and Chp. 1: The Need for Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>09/03</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
<td>Campus Closed</td>
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<td>09/05</td>
<td>Chp. 1-2: The Role of the Majority View</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/10</td>
<td>Chp. 3: The Role of Feelings</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/12</td>
<td>Chp. 4: The Role of Conscience</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/13</td>
<td>Common Book Kick Off Event: (Thursday)</td>
<td>Performance Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/17</td>
<td>Chp. 4: The Role of Conscience (cont.)</td>
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<td>09/19</td>
<td>Chp. 5: Comparing Cultures</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/24</td>
<td>Chp. 5: Comparing Cultures (cont.)</td>
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<td>09/26</td>
<td>Review/Presentations/Discussion</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/01</td>
<td><strong>Exam # 1</strong></td>
<td>Exam # 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Examination Book</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Strategy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Common Book Presentations:</strong> Barbara Ehrenreich: <strong>Nickel and Dimed</strong> Part One: <strong>Serving in Florida</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>Chp. 6: A Foundation for Judgment</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/08</td>
<td>Chp. 6: A Foundation for Judgment (cont.)</td>
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<td><strong>10/10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Common Book Presentations:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Barbara Ehrenreich:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Nickel and Dimed</strong></td>
<td>Part One:</td>
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<td><strong>Group 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Serving in Florida</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Chp. 7: The Basic Criteria</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Chp. 7: The Basic Criteria (cont.)</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>Chp. 8: Considering Obligations</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Chp. 9: Considering Moral Ideals</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>Chp. 10: Considering Consequences</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
<td>Chp. 11: Determining Moral Responsibility</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/05</td>
<td>Review/Presentations/Discussion</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/07</td>
<td><strong>Exam # 2</strong></td>
<td>Exam # 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Examination Book</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Tradition and Contemporary Ethical Controversies</strong></td>
<td><strong>Common Book Presentations:</strong> Barbara Ehrenreich: <strong>Nickel and Dimed</strong> Part Two:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Group 2**

11/14  
**Film:** “Air Force One”  
**Scrubbing in Maine**  
Cooperative Exercises

11/15  
*Thursday: Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W”*

11/19  
Film Conclusion and Discussion  
**Chp. 12: “A Perspective on History”:**  
The Classical Period: Socrates, Plato

11/21  
The Classical Period: Aristotle

11/26  
The Medieval Period: St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas

11/28  
Deontological Ethics: Kant

11/30  
Utilitarianism: Mill

12/03  
**Common Book Presentations:**

Barbara Ehrenreich:  
*Nickel and Dimed*

**Group 3**

12/05  
**Final, Take-Home, Exam Given**  
**Great Issues in Ethics**  
**Contemporary Ethical Controversies**  
**Final Review**

12/10  
**Final, Take-Home, Exam Due**  
**Final Exam Due**

**Evaluation Procedures:**

1. Participation and quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade.
2. Individual presentations will count for 20% of your final grade.
3. The three examinations will each count for 20% of your final grade.
4. Common Book presentations will count for 10% of your final grade.

Final grades will be assigned according to the student’s 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. Grades will also be posted on eCampus.

**Instructor Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to consult with the instructor when an absence occurs. If for some reason you must leave class early, you should inform the instructor prior to the start of class of your reason for leaving early.

_Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending, by the certification date. For this lecture course, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses._

Again, attendance is expected, and you remain responsible for assignments due, material covered, and schedule changes announced in class while absent. Ten or more absences constitute grounds for failure of the course.

_Please, note:_ Two weeks of unexcused absences will reduce your grade by one letter grade—that’s 10 points automatically deducted from your semester total. Each subsequent week after that will further reduce your grade. _It is very possible to fail this course through a lack of attendance._
Grading Scale:

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

Late Work Policy:
Generally, late work will not be accepted. If you have unusual circumstances for late work, please consult with your professor.

Make-up Quizzes and Exams:
There will be no make-up quizzes offered. Since the final exam is during the last week of the semester, there will not be an opportunity to make it up. Thus, the two “in-class” exams are the only ones that can be made up—if you are going to miss this exam, notify me before the exam or within one day of the exam. You must have an excused absence in order to make up these exams. There will be no exceptions—if you fail to notify me in time, or the absence is unexcused, you will not be able to make up the exam. Make-up exams may be taken in the Testing Center for one week following the exam date and will incur a 10-point penalty for the first late exam, and a 20-point penalty for the second late exam. Again, no make-up opportunity exists for the final exam.
If you have unusual circumstances that will warrant no penalty, please consult with your instructor.

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 November 15th, 2012. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." Students often drop courses when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with your instructor if you feel the need to withdraw.
If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a "W" (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

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/6drop

Cell phones, electronic devices and pagers:
Students are expected to turn off all cell phones, electronic devices and pagers during class time.

Repeating This Course:
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. This class may not be repeated for the third or subsequent time without paying the additional tuition.
Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. More information is available at: https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm.

Financial Aid:
Students must begin attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending by the certification date. For this lecture
class, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date, will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students, who are not certified as beginning class, are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses. Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

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.

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

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.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is expected, and integrity is valued in the Dallas County Community Colleges. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0406/ss/code.cfm.

For the purposes of this course, a single deliberate act of scholastic dishonesty will result in failure for the course, regardless of performance in other areas of evaluation. This policy also applies to all extra credit assignments and papers. If you are wrongly accused of cheating, you have access to a campus appeals procedure to defend your grade.

ADA Statement:

Mountain View College and the Office of Special Services are committed to upholding the laws and the spirit of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed in 1990.

Religious Holidays:

Absences for observance 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 a reasonable time after the absence.

Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus:

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

Inclement Weather Statement:

In the event of severe weather conditions, please listen to local radio or television stations for information concerning official closing of Mountain View College facilities. You can also call the inclement weather hotline at 214-860-8888, or check for updates on this web site. Decisions for evening classes will be made by 4:00 pm.