Course Description, Focus, and Assumptions
The catalogue description for this course is as follows:
“This is a Texas Common Course Number. This is a Core Curriculum course selected by the colleges of DCCCD.

**Prerequisite:** One of the following must be met: (1) DREA 0093 or (2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or (3) have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

**Course Description:** A study of the major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value and their practical application. (3 Lec.)

**Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015112”

Of course, when we "do philosophy," we know that we are undertaking controversial topics -- that is, there are almost no conclusive answers. On the other hand, as humans we must all -- in some way -- address the problems and questions that make up the subject matter of philosophy, “What is the origin of the universe?” “What is it to be human?” “Do we survive death?” “Are my actions really free?” “What can we really know?” “What is the ultimate nature of reality?” “How should we live our lives?” “What is the meaning of my life?”

This course will be conducted primarily as a reading and online discussion class; therefore, your active participation is required for successful completion of the course. We will consider a wide range of issues in philosophy. In addition to our own responses to these critical issues, we will consider the ideas of philosophers and others who have given their attention to the important problems and issues in philosophy.

**Instructor’s Aspirations for Students**

This course should have a direct connection to and influence on your life -- your life as a student, of course; however, even more important to me is the influence this course has on your life beyond the walls of the virtual college. My primary aspiration is to help you walk the earth when you complete this course in a way that is at least somewhat different from the day you began. In short, I hope that when we part you are a changed person, that I am a changed person too, and that we both have changed for the better. My aspiration in teaching this course is for us to have a learning adventure together. Students who have curious, active minds and who are eager to engage the topic and material are encouraged to join me in this adventure.

**Core Objectives:**

This course satisfies the following Core Curriculum Competencies defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

1. **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:
1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments orally or in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Evaluate the personal and social responsibilities of living in a diverse world.

“Philosophy 1301 is a Tier 2 course in the Humanity, Creativity, and the Aesthetic Experience learning category. “Knowledge and skills learned in Tier 1 are reinforced and applied. The Humanity, Creativity, and the Aesthetic Experience category focuses on the value of literature, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts. You will be able to critically analyze and form artistic judgments about the arts and humanities.” - Catalog of the Colleges of DCCCD

Learning Activities
Too often, I believe, we limit the way we think about learning. First, real learning is something we all love to do and have loved to do since we were babies. Learning is exciting and fun, and that’s part of the reason we love it. We are fortunate to be able to use technology to assist us in our learning together. As for the structured learning experiences that will lead to an evaluation of your work for this course, there are four main learning activities:

a) Writing Response Papers (each approximately 750 words in length) in response to assigned readings in the course. (The Response Paper assignment can be viewed in “Assignments” -- Unit One. You will also find a sample response paper to give you an idea of what is expected on these papers, which are designed primarily as a way for you to study and learn the material.)

b) Taking four examinations over material covered. The course is made up of 8 separate Units. Each examination covers two course units;

c) Writing a final paper (approximately 5 pages in length);

d) Reading chapters, articles, essays, and course “lectures” on questions and problems in philosophy; and

g) Using the “Discussion Board” to interact with your professor and other students about ideas that emerge from the above activities.

Evaluation
Your final course grade will be determined on the following basis: You will earn numerical grades for your performance in each of the above learning activities. The maximum number of points that one could make is 1000.

900+ = A
800- 899 = B
700 - 799 = C
600 - 699 = D
Below 600 = F
a) Response Papers: (6 separate grades) you will be provided with a simple response paper to follow in preparing these short papers as responses to what you have read. You will also be provided with a sample paper before the first assignment is due. There will be six response papers assigned, and each will be worth a total of 50 points. (Maximum of 300 points)

b) Examinations: (4 separate grades) you will be given four examinations (including the final examination) during the course. Each examination will be worth a total of 100 points. Examinations are timed. If the time limit is exceeded the grade may be adjusted accordingly. (Maximum of 400 points)

c) Final Paper: (1 grade) you will be assigned to write a final paper (approximately 5 pages in length). (Maximum 100 points)

d) Class Participation: (4 separate grades) as participation class “discussions” are an essential aspect of success in this course, you will receive a class participation grade that is based upon your contributions to the discussions on the Discussion Board. There will be 4 in-depth discussions during the course, so your participation in each discussion will be worth a maximum of 50 points. (Maximum of 200 points)

**Important note regarding late work**

Please be aware that I do not accept late work. All assignments/exams must be submitted by their due dates and by 11:30 PM on that day. Assignments submitted late will receive no credit.

Because I do know all too well that ‘life happens’, I will make ONE exception over the course of the semester regarding late work. You may turn in ONE paper/exam late during the semester IF AND ONLY IF you submit it within 72 hours of the due date. This applies to one paper/exam only. It does NOT apply to discussion board.

Students should participate in discussion boards from the time they open until they close. Because the discussion board is a place for all of us to interact, it is crucial that everyone participates from the beginning to the end; otherwise, there is nothing for others to respond to and discuss. So students who wait until the end or near the end to participate in discussion boards will not receive full credit, even if they answer all the required threads. You should very carefully read the grading assumptions for the discussion boards found in the discussion boards link. Many students lose points on the discussion boards because they do not carefully read what is expected.

**Texts**


You will be also assigned a variety of readings with various online links to assist you in finding the readings.

**Institutional Policies**

I have included many of the institutional policies below. Here is a link to these and a few more. Please do read them all.
Academic Dishonesty
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. Please be aware that ANY academic honesty violation will be punished with a MINIMUM of an F on the assignment. Punishment could also include an F in the course, suspension, or expulsion.

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.
https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm

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 official drop date, which is April 7, 2017. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” 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 - 6 Drop Rule
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

Repeating the Course, Third Attempt to Enroll in a 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. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester. Visit www.dcccd.edu/ThirdCourseAttempt for a list of courses and additional information.

Obtaining Final Course Grades Using eConnect
Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu or by telephone at 972-613-1818. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions and Student Records Office, T170. At the completion of this course, you should be able to easily know what your assigned grade for the course will be, by checking in the course “grade book” for your total score.
Financial Aid for Distance Learning Classes
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date, March 22, 2017, by either submitting the Letter to Luisa assignment or participating in the discussion board. 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 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.

ADA (American Disabilities Act) Statement
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact Richland College Disability Services Office, T-120 at (972) 238-6180.

Religious Holidays
As this online course is designed without any particular days or times that a student must be online, then religious holidays should not be a factor. It should be understood, however, that college policy is that 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. Students who will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must notify the instructor in advance.

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

The Richland College Statement on Academic Honesty
This statement clarifies academic honesty for the Richland College teaching-learning community. It identifies appropriate student behavior and describes teachers’ expectations of students. We—the Richland College faculty, administration, and staff—are committed to honesty and fairness as we work with our students. We also expect our students to be honest and fair in the work they submit to us. This statement on academic honesty describes:
1) what we expect from students.
2) the consequences of their failing to meet those expectations.
Note: As we use the terms “honesty” and “dishonesty,” we are referring to actions and behaviors; we are not judging the character of our students.

The Richland College faculty believes only a small minority of students “cheat.” However, we believe academically dishonest students cheat the academically honest students. Therefore, we expect students who are aware of cheating to act honorably and report instances of academic dishonesty to the faculty or the appropriate academic dean.

Expectations
1. We believe academic honesty is essential, and students should avoid actions that misrepresent academic success. We believe Richland College students are academically honest, and they want to be fair and honest in the assignments they submit.
These guidelines apply to all testing situations—test administered in the classrooms, tests administered in the Testing Center, and tests administered by someone other than the professor.

2. All forms of cheating on tests are academically dishonest. Students cheat when they:
   • participate in any activity that falsely represents their ability to answer test questions.
   • copy—with or with permission—from another student’s test.
   • use notes (either written or electronically stored in calculators or computers) or any other unauthorized materials.
   • request answers or assist other students with answers without authorization.
   • obtain test questions prior to the test (soliciting or in any other way obtaining test questions, answers, or portions of tests). 3. Students presenting another person’s work as their own is unacceptable. Often, academic work permits and even encourages students to use another person’s words or ideas, but students must document those words and ideas correctly. Therefore, students cheat when they:
   • summarize, paraphrase, or quote another person without giving proper credit.
   • submit papers written by someone else.
   • copy verbatim (word for word) from other sources (books, Internet, and other similar materials).
   When they have questions about when and how to credit other sources, students must seek clarification from the faculty. These matters are the student’s responsibility.

4. Unauthorized collaboration on assignments or tests is unacceptable. Richland College supports authorized collaborative, cooperative learning. Therefore, we encourage study groups when students are preparing for tests, but students cheat when they:
   • provide other students with answers on homework assignments.
   • present work completed by someone else.
   If they have a question about the appropriateness of collaboration, students should seek clarification from the faculty. These matters are the student’s responsibility.

Consequences
1. Faculty determine the appropriate consequences for students who fail to be academically honest. Even if the course syllabus fails to address the matter, students are obliged to be academically honest. By enrolling in a course, students are promising to be academically honest.

2. As consequences for academic dishonesty, faculty may:
   • assign a performance grade of “F” for the assignment or test.
   • document the incident in the student’s Richland College file.
   • assign additional work.
   • take over appropriate disciplinary actions.

Repeated violations may result in the student’s expulsion or suspension from the college. Students must understand that academic dishonesty carries serious consequences. However, if they believe they have received unfair treatment, students can file a grievance as described in the “Student Code of Conduct” in the Richland College Catalog or published in the DCCCD Catalog at http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm

Assignment Calendar for Spring 2017
3/20-4/14
Important Semester Dates: Please note that the due dates are the LAST day for accomplishing the assignment. All work is due no later than 11:30 pm on the day designated; however, work should be done throughout the period leading to the due date.

Important: A student must initiate a withdrawal from a course. Instructors cannot drop students. After this date, students will receive a performance grade.

Each of the 4 Discussion Boards is worth 50 points. (Make sure you understand what is required for Discussion Board by carefully reading the Discussion Board Grading Assumptions found in the Discussion Board.)

Each Response Paper is worth 50 points.

Each Examination is worth 100 points.

Final Paper is worth 100 points.

Monday 3/20-Wednesday 3/22: Unit 1
Read Course Orientation, Syllabus, submit Letter to Luisa, Student Contract, and Avoiding Plagiarism assignment
Required readings Unit One
Discussion Board One opens
Read Lecture Material Unit One
Review Response Paper Format
Review Sample Response Paper

Thursday 3/23-Sunday 3/26: Unit 2
Required readings Unit Two
Ongoing activity: Discussion Board One
Read Lecture Material Unit Two
Review Study Guide Units One and Two
Submit Response Paper #1 by 11:30 pm on Sunday 3/26
Discussion Board One closes at 11:30 pm on Sunday 3/26
Take Exam One by 11:30 pm on Sunday 3/26

Monday 3/27-Wednesday 3/29: Unit 3
Required readings Unit Three
Discussion Board Two opens
Read Lecture Material Unit Three
Submit Response Paper #2 by 11:30 pm on Wednesday 3/29

Thursday 3/30-Saturday 4/1: Unit 4
Required readings Unit Four
Ongoing activity: Discussion Board Two
Read Lecture Material Unit Four
Review Study Guide Units Three and Four
Submit Response Paper #3 by 11:30 pm on Saturday 4/1
Discussion Board Two closes at 11:30 pm on Saturday 4/1
Take Exam Two by 11:30 pm Saturday 4/1

Sunday 4/2-Tuesday 4/4: Unit 5
Required readings Unit Five
Discussion Board Three opens
Read Lecture Material Unit Five
Submit Response Paper #4 by 11:30 pm Tuesday 4/4

Wednesday 4/5-Friday 4/7: Unit 6
Required readings Unit Six
Ongoing activity: Discussion Board Three
Read Lecture Material Unit Six
Review Study Guide Units Five and Six
Submit Response Paper #5 by 11:30 pm on Friday 4/7
Discussion Board Three closes at 11:30 pm on Friday 4/7
Take Exam Three by 11:30 pm on Friday 4/7

Saturday 4/8-Monday 4/10: Unit 7
Required readings Unit Seven
Discussion Board Four opens
Read Lecture Material Unit Seven
Submit Response Paper #6 by 11:30 pm on Monday 4/10

Tuesday 4/11-Thursday 4/13: Unit 8
Required readings Unit Eight
Ongoing activity: Discussion Board Four
Read Lecture Material Unit Eight
Submit Final Paper by 11:30 pm on Thursday 4/13
Review Study Guide Units Seven and Eight
Discussion Board Four closes at 11:30 pm on Thursday 4/13
Take Exam Four by 11:30 pm on Thursday 4/13