Instructor: Luisa Benton  
Office: C 215  
Office Hours: TBA  
Office Telephone: 214-354-4798  
Email: lbenton@dcccd.edu

Course Description

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 Required: College level ready 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

When we 'do philosophy' we think about controversial topics; that is, there are almost no conclusive answers. However, as humans we must all 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.
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
a) Writing 2 essays: 100 points each, maximum 200 points
b) Taking four examinations: 100 points each, maximum 400 points
c) Reading chapters, articles, essays, and course lectures on questions and problems in philosophy
d) Participating in 8 discussion forums: 50 points each, maximum 400 points

Extra Credit
Some semesters/terms, depending on what events are taking place on campus/in the community, I offer extra credit. The maximum points you may earn for extra credit is 40.

Evaluation
Your final course grade will be determined on the following basis:
900+ = A
800 - 899 = B
700 - 799 = C
600 - 699 = D
Below 600 = F

Texts

Important note regarding late work/missed assignments
Please be aware that I do not accept late work. All assignments/exams must be submitted by their due dates and by midnight 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 or exam late during the semester IF AND ONLY IF you submit it within 72 hours of the due date. This applies to one paper or exam only. It does NOT apply to discussion board.

Campus Emergency Operation Plan
To help ensure your safety on campus, please watch the video on Keeping Safe in a Campus Emergency at http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv

Academic Honesty
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 available at https://alt.richlandcollege.edu/conduct.

Withdrawal Policy
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw by the official drop date for this course. Failure to do so will result in a performance grade, usually an F. If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop deadline, December 22, 2017, you will receive a W (withdraw). For more information about withdrawal procedures access the Admissions page on policy/procedures or contact the Admissions/Student Records office at 972-238-6948 (Thunderduck Hall, T170).

Financial Aid Participation and Attendance Policy
Your instructor is required by law to validate/certify your attendance in your on-campus or online course(s) in order for you to receive financial aid. To meet the attendance requirement, you must attend/login AND participate in our course by completing either the Letter to Luisa assignment or submitting the avoiding plagiarism assignment prior to the course certification date, December 13, 2017, and continue participating beyond the course withdrawal date. In an online class, simply logging in is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your online class and are engaged in an academically related activity such as in the examples described above.
Other College Policies
Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link:

www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabipolicies

Student Academic Progress
Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester from academic advisors and career specialists. Check http://richlandcollege.edu/admissions and http://richlandcollege.edu/advising for more details.

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