The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus in order to serve the goals of the course

**Term:** Wintermester 2017-2018  
**Division:** Humanities  
**Course Title:** Ethics  
**Course Number:** PHIL.2306  
**Section Number:** 82245  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Location:** Del Rio Hall, Room 146 (Main Campus)  
**Section Days and Time:** MTWR 9:00a-12:30p  
**Instructor:** Geoffrey C. Manzi  
**Office Hours:** Alamito Hall, Room A110B, by appointment only  
**Contact:** via email: gmanzi@dcccd.edu; via office phone: 972-238-6361

**Course Orientation:**

Perhaps the most ‘concrete’ branch of the discipline of philosophy—itself, the most abstract of all fields of study—ethics is indelibly intertwined with what it is to live as humans do insofar as, at every moment of our lives, we are committing to ethical decisions, each of which is fraught with moral implications of one’s character; moreover, as each of our lives entails incessant interaction with other members of various communities—most especially our own—the ramifications of our actions extend beyond the purview of our lives to touch the lives of others in ways both expected and unanticipated. Ultimately, to be human is to be ethical, and to be ethical is to be involved in the lives of those around you in a way that demands attentive reflection on the role one plays in the lives of others, as well as the life one hopes to realize for oneself; to that end, we will devote ourselves in this course to understanding the nature and purpose of ethics for humanity, the ubiquity of ethical
phenomena in human engagement with the world and one another, and the multifarious attempts to interpret our inherent morality and articulate its aim of happiness, tracing the earliest thoughts on such matters and following their trajectory over the history of the West through to contemporary approaches.

Course Description (per the DCCCD catalogue):

“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: The systematic evaluation and application of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals and standards of value. (3 Lec.)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015312”

Course of Study Outline/Calendar

Week 1 (12/11-12/15)  
Aristotle & Virtue Ethics  
Beauchamp Ch. 6: Aristotle; MacIntyre; Feinberg; Louden  
Hume  
Beauchamp Ch. 7: Hume  
Essay 1 Due

Week 2 (12/18-12/22)  
Humean Theories  
Beauchamp Ch. 7: Mackie; Gauthier; Baier  
Midterm Exam  
Kant & Deontological Ethics  
Beauchamp Ch. 5: Kant; Rawls; Ross; Nagel  
Essay 2 Due

Week 3 (12/25-01/01)  
Holiday Break(!)

Week 4 (01/02-01/05)  
Mill & Utilitarian Ethics  
Beauchamp Ch. 4: Mill, Smart, Brandt, Nozick  
Essay 3 Due  
Final Exam

Required Texts:


Various handouts (to be distributed throughout the wintersemester)
**Expectations During Class:**

Students are expected to have read before class, have any written homework completed, and arrive in a timely fashion. Once class has begun, students are expected to be fully engaged in either the discussion or the lecture—this means posing thoughtful questions, elucidating class lessons with creative examples, and otherwise participating accordingly. All cellular phones, pagers, beepers, and whatnot are to be turned off once the class is underway. Also, if any student is caught “cruising the internet” during class time, then said student will be excused from the remainder of class and suffer an unexcused absence. Finally, this syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you were absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.

**Course Work:**

Weekly homework assignments to be collected and graded at random; consistent attendance to class meetings; active participation throughout class discussions; three short essays; a midterm exam; a final exam.

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Grading Rubric:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Essays</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10% (Oral, or not written)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Work/Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10% (You may accumulate up to 2 unexcused absences before they begin to affect your final grade. For example, a 3rd unexcused absence drops the attendance grade from a 100 to a 90, a 4th drops it from a 90 to an 80, etc.).</td>
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</tbody>
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As you can see, your graded work will consist primarily of three reflection essays (600 to 1,200 words in length), all of which count equally.

You must turn in all assigned work and attend class to be eligible to pass the class. Excessively late work will not be accepted without a very good reason.
**Important Dates:**

- December 23rd: Holiday Break Begins
- January 2nd: Classes Resume

**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. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

“Philosophy 2306 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*

**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](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/admissions/process.php) for more details.
Withdrawal Policy:
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. 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. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Student Records office at 972-238-6100 or 6101 (Thunderduck Hall, T170), or contact the division office.

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://alt.richlandcollege.edu/employees/syllabus-institutional-policy-statements/

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

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:
If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you 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 accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office at 972-238-6180 (Voice/TTY), visit Thunderduck Hall, suite T120, or go to [http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/](http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/) (CTRL + Click to access “Current Students” site to “Student Services” to “Disability Services”)

**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 contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Institutional Policies:**
Institutional policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link: [www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabipolicies](http://www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)

**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 for Academic Integrity:**

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.** If you
present another person’s words and/or ideas as your own, that constitutes academic dishonesty.

More specifically if you are quoting someone, you need to put their words in quotation marks and indicate what work it is from. If you are summing up another’s ideas, or using their examples you need to attribute it to them and say where it is from. In general if you didn’t say it or think of it you need to credit the person who did. Since I am asking you for original thoughts and examples they need to be original. Taking someone else’s example and changing a few of the words does not suffice.

If a topic question asks you to summarize/explain a philosopher’s position you don’t need to give citations unless you are using a source outside of the textbook and class discussion. These sources are taken for granted in the topic question. If you are directly quoting, simply give a page number, e.g. “pg. 29”.

Copying and pasting another person's work off of the internet, from a book or magazine, or directly from another student is unacceptable and is dealt with harshly. You will receive a failing grade for the course regardless of your other grades. If this occurs after the drop date there is nothing that can be done.

It is usually very easy to detect plagiarized work in philosophy. More than most other disciplines, philosophers, when writing professionally, do not speak in a natural way. If you copy someone else’s work it will be apparent. I reserve the right to enforce the ‘five word rule’: If five or more words in a row match an outside source that is sufficient proof of plagiarism.

We have access to an internet plagiarism site; should it become necessary, I will require that all papers be submitted and checked by them.

That said, if I happen to catch any student cheating beyond a reasonable doubt on any assignment, then that particular student will not only fail the assignment but also fail the course as a whole, as well as be reported to the Dean immediately for further disciplinary action.

Moreover, 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. Again, 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

1st instance of Plagiarism - Fail the assignment

2nd instance of Plagiarism - Fail the course

3rd instance of Plagiarism - Possible academic probation/suspension/expulsion (this is decided at the VP level)

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

I look forward to getting to know you throughout the course of the wintersemester