Instructor: Luisa Benton  
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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: The evaluation and application of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories connecting the good life, human conduct in society, morals and standards of value. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 3801015312

Why a course in ethics? Every day we make moral decisions. Every day we make moral choices. We shall, no doubt, discover as we share in this virtual classroom experience together, that the issue of morality is one that is never far from any question regarding human action, human hope, and an affirmation of human existence. As Socrates said, moral philosophy deals with "no small matter, but how we ought to live." Of course, when we ‘do philosophy,’ we think about controversial topics; that is, there are almost no conclusive answers. On the other hand, as humans we must address the question, "How should we live our lives?" We must consider what it might mean to be a conscientious moral agent. We must try to determine if there is a way of guiding or judging our moral conduct as humans. We have to understand how well we are making moral choices.
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 relating to moral philosophy. In addition to our own responses to these critical issues, we will consider the ideas of philosophers and others who have given these issues their attention.

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”

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](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](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](http://www.dcccd.edu/Admissions) 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