PHIL 2306: Introduction to Ethics: Section 53401; 3 credits

College Name: El Centro College
Division: Arts & Sciences Division
Semester/Term & Year: Spring 20
Instructor: Dr. Amato
E-mail: lamato@dcccde.edu

Course Description
How do you see others? How do they see you? What determines how you treat them? What do others mean to you? Do you have a moral code? Do you endorse a belief system or particular philosophy that governs how you ought to act toward others or in any given situation? We will take these and similar questions seriously during our semester-long introduction into ethics.

We will begin our journey into ethics by reading, thinking, and writing about the nature of friendship. Our readings will be chronological, beginning with the Greeks and slowly working our way to the 20th century. Near the end of the semester our readings will explore otherness, freedom, responsibility, and obligations.

Course Prerequisites
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Requirements
Students are required to:
1. Complete all assigned readings
2. Participate regularly on Message Board Threads
3. Complete all written assignments on-time

Specific Course Learning Outcomes
1. The goals of this course are to promote:
   (a) Familiarity with a wide-range of ethical positions and arguments from antiquity to today, and from diverse cultural and social-political contexts, and
   (b) Critical reasoning and ethical reflection through considering a variety of moral issues and approaches to ethical questions.

2. The objectives of this course are for students to develop their ability and skills in:
   (a) Interpreting texts by accurately and fully describing concepts and arguments.
   (b) Reasoning about ideas by (i) evaluating the content, structure, and strategies of ethical works and (ii) applying concepts and arguments to contemporary issues and their own lives, and
   (c) Collaborating with other students, and presenting and supporting their ideas in public through class participation.

Assignments are intended to familiarize you with the readings, encourage you to develop
Evaluating this outcome: your skills in reasoning, and reflect on ethical issues in different contexts and from a variety of perspectives. Discussions and writing papers should help develop your own thinking and writing to be critical, engaged, rigorous, and be your own on the basis of the text, and discussions.

Required Materials

All three of these texts are required:


2) Emmanuel Levinas, Ethics and Infinity (PA: Duquesne University Press, 1985)

3) John D. Caputo, Against Ethics (IN: Indiana University Press, 1993)

Evaluation Procedures

You will be evaluated on your ability a) to think critically, b) to articulate your interpretations and arguments, and c) respectfully and actively engage the ideas of others. You will demonstrate these abilities by your class participation on the discussion boards and the three writing assignments.

Grading Scale

Grade 1: Discussion Board Activity 40% or 400 pts. (25 pts each/50 pts total per discussion)
Grade 2: Short Essay 20% or 200 pts.
Grade 3: Long Essay 40% or 400 pts.

Exams and Assignments

1) You will have 8 Discussion Board Questions throughout the semester. You will need to reply to each one twice. Each reply is worth up to 25 points (50 for both), for a total of 400 points.
2) You will write one short essay during the semester. The prompt for the essay will be release three days before the essay is due. The essay is worth 200 points.
3) You will write one long essay. The prompt for the long essay will be released near the end of the semester and you will have one week to work on it. The long essay is worth 400 points.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required. Attendance is determined by your participation on the Discussion Board Threads.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

ADA Statement

If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.

Room A110; 214.860.2411; 5dsq@dcccd.edu
**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 if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student notified the instructor of each class scheduled on the date that the student would be absent for a religious holy day. A “religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section 11.20, Tax Code. The notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered by the student personally to the instructor, with receipt acknowledged and dated by the instructor or by certified mail, return requested, addressed to the instructor. A student who is excused under this section may not be penalized for the absence, but the instructor may appropriately respond if the student fails to satisfactorily complete the assignment or examination.

**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/catalog/ss/code.cfm.

**Withdrawal Policy (with drop date)**
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 (semester’s drop date). 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.

**Last Day to Withdraw** is April 16 (R)

**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 six 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 six 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 information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

**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/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm.

**Financial Aid:**
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.

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

CLASS POLICIES
Everyone will be expected to respect each other during in-class discussions. Adult language is permitted, but will be monitored if deemed excessive. Additionally, no overt personal attacks about one’s race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender, appearance or manner of speaking will be permitted. In a nutshell, you will be expected to act as responsible, empathetic adults who respect the lives and views of their fellow humans.

E-connect
E-connect is the web interface that provides online student services which allow students to search, register, and pay for credit classes, view final grades and financial aid status. Go to https://econnect.dcccd.edu/eConnect

You must have an e-mail address on file with the college to access e-Connect. You may use a DCCCD e-mail address, which is free if you are eligible, or you may use a commercial e-mail address. If you have a question contact eConnect@DCCCD.Edu

Computer use Policy:
This class will require you to utilize campus computers. Please see the computer use policy for the district under the student code of conduct at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0809/ss/computer.cfm?loc=5

Student Handbook:
The student handbook with additional information for students is available at https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0809/ss/computer.cfm?loc=5

or http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/studentservices/spar/

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENTS:
1) Discussion Board Activity: Each student must participate by replying twice on each Discussion Board question. The first reply will be each student’s own answer to the question. The second reply will be a response to other students’ answers, engaging 2-3 different answers by other students. Students are required to respond thoughtfully and engage with each other respectively. Both replies must be at least 250 words each.

In addition to the required first and second replies, students are encouraged to use the Discussion Boards as often as they would like to explore each topic and see where the conversation goes. There are no word minimums or maximums for replies after the first two. But, again, each student must reply at least twice to each question (an answer and a response to other answers), and each reply must contain more than 250 words.

There will be approximately 8 Discussion Board questions, which is about one every two weeks. Each question will be taken from the readings. First replies must engage the required readings, while second replies must engage 2-3 answers by other students. Each Discussion Board Thread will be frozen before the Discussion Board is updated with the next question.

Each reply will be graded according to the following criteria:

• Does it demonstrate an adequate understanding of both the reading and the question?
• Does it demonstrate critical thinking and thoughtful reflection?
• Does it demonstrate serious consideration for what other responses have stated?
• Does it demonstrate respect for other views?

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Instructor may engage students’ replies and require them to clarify or defend what they have written, so students must also be prepared for the possibility that they may need to reply more than twice to each question (the 250 word minimum will not be enforced in such instances).

2) **Short Essay:** Each student will write one short essay (750-1,000 words) during the semester. The instructor will update eCampus with the essay’s Prompt (it may be a Topic or a Question) on Friday, Feb 28, and essays must be submitted by 12 pm - noon - on Monday, Mar 2. This gives each student approximately 3 days or 72 hours to complete his or her short essay.

3) **Long Essay:** Each student will write one long essay (1,500-2,000 words) near the end of the semester. The Prompt for the long essay will be given on Friday, May 8, and must be submitted by 12 pm - noon - on Thursday, May 14. This essentially gives students the last week of class to work on their Long Essay.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
- Essays (the 1 Short Essays and the 1 Long Essay) should consult and use either MLA or Chicago style (choose one or the other) for citations, bibliographies, notes, etc.
- Essays must be submitted as Word documents.
- Essays will only be accepted through e-Campus.
- Paper should be typed, double-spaced, in 12 font Times New Roman.

All essays will be graded according to the following criteria:

• Does it demonstrate an adequate understanding of both the reading and the question?
• Does it demonstrate critical thinking and thoughtful reflection?
• Does it demonstrate the ability to offer and unpack a reasonable interpretation?
• Does it demonstrate the ability to construct and articulate a defensible argument?

**PLEASE NOTE:** Plagiarism or having someone else write your essays or discussion board replies will not be tolerated. If you do this it will result in you failing the course.

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT GRADING:**
Grade 1: Discussion Board Activity 40% or 400 possible points.

- Discussion Board Question 1: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 2: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 3: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 4: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 5: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 6: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 7: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)
- Discussion Board Question 8: Answer Reply: 25 pts. + Response Reply: 25 pts. (5% or 50 pts.)

Grade 2: Short Essay 20% or 200 possible points.

Grade 3: Long Essay 40% or 400 possible points.

Final Grade: Grades 1, 2, 3 will be combined for a possible 100% or 1,000 points.
Amendments to the Syllabus: If I make any changes to the syllabus, I will e-mail you and/or let you know on e-Campus.

Spring Academic Semester, 2020
January 2 (Thursday) College buildings and offices open
January 13 (Monday) Faculty Reports
January 20 (Monday) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Holiday
January 21 (Tuesday) Classes Begin
February 3 (Monday) 12th Class Day (Certification Date)
February 27 - 28 (Thursday thru Friday) Professional Development Days -- Thursday and Friday day classes will not meet. Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday classes will meet.
March 2 (Monday) Classes Resume
March 16-20 (Monday thru Friday) Spring Break - College buildings and offices will be closed for the week.
March 23 (Monday) Classes Resume
April 10 (Friday) Holiday
April 13 (Monday) Classes Resume
April 16 (Thursday) Last Day to Withdraw
May 11-14 (Monday thru Thursday) Final Exams
May 14 (Thursday) Semester Ends
May 18 (Monday) Last Day for faculty to submit grades electronically through eConnect to the Registrar's Office.

May Graduation Ceremony dates may vary at the colleges depending on space available.

CLASS CALENDAR

PART I of the course: Friendship as a Basis for Ethics
All readings for Part I will come from Other Selves, abbreviated to OS

Weeks 1 & 2 • Jan 21 – Feb 2
Assignments:
1) See Announcements in e-Campus for general introduction to the course.

2) Discussion Board Participation: Question 1 (Remember to reply twice to each question: your first reply should be an answer to the question, while the second reply should respond to 2-3 other students' answers to the question).

Reading:
Ancient Friendship
Plato, Lysis, pp. 1-27, OS
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp. 28-69, OS
Cicero, De Amicitia, pp. 77-116, OS
Weeks 3 & 4 • Feb 3 – Feb 16
Assignments:
1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 2

Readings:
Medieval Friendship

Weeks 5 & 6 • Feb 17 – Mar 1
Assignments:
1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 3
2) Short Essay Prompt on Friday, Feb 28, DUE Monday, Mar 2 at 12pm - Noon

Readings:
Renaissance Friendship
Montaigne, “On Friendship,” pp. 185-199, OS
Bacon, “Of Friendship,” 200-207, OS

Enlightenment Friendship
Kant, “Lecture on Friendship,” pp.208-217, OS

Weeks 7 & 8 • Mar 2 – Mar 15 (Spring Break Mar 16 – Mar 20)
Assignments:
1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 4

Readings:
Transcendental Friendship
Emerson, “Friendship,” pp. 218-232, OS

Existential Friendship
Kierkegaard, “You Shall Love Your Neighbour,” pp. 233-247, OS

PART II of the course: Others Come First; Or Discovering Obligations
All readings for Part II will come from Ethics and Infinity (EI) and Against Ethics (AE)

Weeks 9 & 10 • Mar 16 – Mar 29
Assignments:
1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 5

Readings:
The Face of the Other
Levinas, Chapters 2-8, pp, 35-101, EI

Weeks 11 & 12 • Mar 30 – Apr 12
Assignments:
1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 6

Readings:
On Second Thought, Forget About Ethics
Caputo, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-68, AE
Weeks 13 & 14 • Apr 13 – Apr 26 (Apr 17, Wed, Last Day to Drop)
Assignments:
   1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 7

Readings:
   Caputo, Chapters 6, 7 & 10, pp. 123-133, pp. 220-248, AE

Weeks 15 & 16 • Apr 27 – May 14
Assignments:
   1) Discussion Board Participation: Question 8
   2) Long Essay: Prompt on Friday, May 8, DUE Thursday, May 14, at 12pm - Noon

...NOW GO BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR OTHERS...
AND YOURSELF!