Online COURSE SYLLABUS

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL Program office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in the courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student’s preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount your time outside the course to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
3. Login and participate in your course a minimum of three times per week.
4. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
5. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.

If you cannot perform these six expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course. We look forward to your academic success in each course and the ultimate completion of your degree.
**Course No. & Title:** PHIL 203 DL1, Ethics  
**Semester and Term:** FALL 2015  
**Day and Dates:** Online, August 24 – October 17, 2015  
**Time:** Online  
**Campus Location:** Online

**Course Description:**
A study of problems of applied ethics, such as abortion, animal experimentation, affirmative action, and gay and lesbian rights. These problems are explored from the standpoint of ethical theories such as utilitarianism and Kantian ethics. The course helps students formulate and interpret moral values by which they may think and act.  
Prerequisite Course: ENGL 101  
Course Code: HUM, LA, UC

**Instructor & contact information:** Colena Sesanker  
Email: csesanke@bridgeport.edu

For the duration of the course (beginning on August 24th), contacting me through the ‘conversations’ in canvas is most efficient.

+ Other materials to be provided by the Professor.

**To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at:** ubcampusstore.com

**Learning Outcomes:**
Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:
- learn major types of ethical discourse  
- learn to apply ethical concepts (language/analysis) to ethical questions and dilemmas  
- Gain skill at reading philosophical works;  
- Learn major types of ethical argument;  
- Learn key arguments of selected figures in philosophical ethics;  
- Further develop their communication skills;
First Assignment (due first week of class):

1. The ethics ‘pre-test’:
   A short ungraded survey in canvas meant to get you thinking and to test your intuitions.

2. An introduction post in the ‘introductions’ discussion board:
   Introduce yourself: your semester standing, major, occupation etc. or anything you’d like to tell us about yourself. Also mention whether you’ve ever taken a philosophy class before.

3. A short discussion post detailing an ethical issue you find important.
   This can be as short as a few sentences or can be more in depth if you have an issue of particular interest to you. Don’t worry too much about whether or not you really know what ethics is. Just post about something that strikes you as being an ethical issue. We’ve got the whole semester to talk about what ethics really is.

Assignments:

Three position papers  
(15% each) : 45%
   due after weeks 2, 4 and 6

Weekly quizzes  
(5% each) : 35%
   Weeks 1-7.

Final paper  
Due at the end of week 8

Participation  
: 10%
   Weekly discussion board posts are required

Quizzes-
will be due at the ends of weeks 1 through 7. They will test your understanding of the various terms and concepts introduced in that week’s material. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank and short essay questions.

Position Papers-
Require that the student take a position on a question provided as a writing prompt. Papers will be graded on their ability to support their position, using principles drawn from the various ethical theories we cover in the course. These are not research papers, they are opportunities to apply the concepts introduced in the text and in lectures.

Discussion Posts-
   • Discussion participation every week: 3 points each for a total of 24
Once you’ve created a thread of your own, you will be able to see what others have posted
0 points for no post or an irrelevant post
1 point for relevance
+1 point for demonstration of mastery of concepts
+1 point for originality in application or for helping a colleague
Possible total of 3 points
Description of Weekly Sessions:

Students will be responsible for

Course Content
- The reading assignment from the text each week
- The weekly lecture presented as a prezi presentation which can be streamed at any time or downloaded.
- The content of any supplementary teaching aids such as handouts or short articles on current events.

Assignments:
- Weekly quizzes beginning at the end of week 1
- Position Papers due every other week [at the end of weeks 2, 4, 6 & 8]
- Weekly discussion posts.

Schedule:

Week 1:
Reading: Chapter 1, Sandel + handout/prezi
What is Ethics?
What is Goodness?
Subjectivism
Relativism
DCT and Natural Law

Week 2:
Reading: Chapter 2 + handout/prezi
Utilitarianism
Act and Rule Versions

Week 3:
Reading: Chapter 3 + handout/prezi
Libertarianism
Confucian Paternalism

Week 4:
Reading: Chapter 5 + handout/prezi
Ethical Egoism
Kantian Deontology

Week 5:
Reading: Chapter 6 + handout/prezi
Social Contract Theory

Week 6:
Reading: Chapter 8 + handout/prezi
Virtue Theory

Week 7:
Reading: Chapter 9 + handout/prezi
Fact-Value Problem
Feminist Ethics of Care
Daoist Ethics

Week 8:
Reading: Handouts + prezi
Other non-Western Accounts of the Good Life
The Dhamapada
The Bahagavad Gita and Upanishads

Grading Criteria:
Grading Test Essay Questions:
0: no knowledge of course content, original thought or argument structure demonstrated
1: some original thought, argument structure or knowledge of basic concepts demonstrated
2: some original thought applied to course content or demonstration of mastery of the relationship of the concepts within an argument
3: particular insight applied to course content or evidence of superior understanding and application of the concepts at hand

Grading Position Papers
The following is a guideline for our writing assignments.
Position papers will require that you respond to a question or analyze a scenario by applying or critiquing the ethical theories we cover. It will require, therefore, that knowledge of theories and concepts covered is demonstrated. Beyond this requirement, one should aim for the following:

- **Expository Clarity:**
  A reader of your essay should be able to easily answer these questions:
  1. What questions has the writer attempted to answer?
  2. What has the writer claimed is the answer to that question?
  3. What reasons did the writer give for that answer?

- **Presence of Argument:**
  The thesis of a paper is the conclusion it purports to establish. The thesis plus the reasons given in its support are called an argument. A thesis without supporting reasons is a dogmatic statement of opinion and while biographically interesting, is not of philosophical value.

- **Cogency of Argument:**
  The reasons given in support of the conclusion must *in fact* support the conclusion. A good argument is a set of considerations which lend weight or plausibility to the conclusion.

- **Originality/Subtlety/imaginativeness/Degree of difficulty**
  It is easy enough to argue cogently for an obvious or uninteresting conclusion. Consider-
  (i) All women are mortal
  (ii) Colena is a woman
Therefore, Colena is mortal.
There is nothing wrong with this argument, but it is certainly not very ambitious or informative. Credit will be given for tackling the harder questions and for being perceptive enough to pick up the subtler points in our texts and topics.

**Grades:**
A: All four of the above criteria are met
B: Three of the above criteria are met
C: Two of the above criteria are met

**Letter Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
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<th>% of Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>76-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>89-87</td>
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<td>86-84</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy
Course attendance via online participation is an integral part of the online academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments.

IMPORTANT:
- An absence (lack of participation) in any week of the course, will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of “B” in the course, the final grade would be a “C”).
- An absence of two or more weeks will be cause for a failing grade.

Drop Procedures
To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage: http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/.

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

Cell Phones
Cell phones must be turned off (or placed on “vibrate”) while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty
The IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.
Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own courses; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site: http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality
An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. Online Tutoring is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account
Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet - Click on “New UBNet Account” and follow the instructions.
The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/email and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Learning Management System (LMS) - Canvas
For all courses that use Canvas, you can access Canvas through the portal by using the myUB link. Faculty post class documents on Canvas e.g. syllabus, power points, discussion questions, case studies, current event articles, papers, reports etc. (save some trees). All students have access, and can download and copy the documents.

Canvas Tutorial For Students: https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/985903
For assistance contact the UB Help Desk at 203-576-4606 or email helpdesk@bridgeport.edu
https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/829447/

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online
The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library
Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on “myEureka Digital Library.” Research tools available:
- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

Using Computers
Open access computer labs are available at three locations:
- Bridgeport – 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/library.
- Stamford – Room D; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford
- Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury

Course Cancellations
Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under “Latest News” on the UB home page, (www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Campus Security</td>
<td>(203) 576-4911</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu">ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4692</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfs@bridgeport.edu">sfs@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>(203) 576-4682</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfs@bridgeport.edu">sfs@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>(203) 576-4568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfs@bridgeport.edu">sfs@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4635</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@bridgeport.edu">registrar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Notification Phone</td>
<td>(203) 576-4159</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEAL Office</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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**CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<th>Campus</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>126 Park Avenue</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<td>Bridgeport, CT 06604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>5 Riverbend Drive</td>
<td>(203) 358-0700</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubstamford@bridgeport.edu">ubstamford@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<td>Stamford, CT 06750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>84 Progress Lane</td>
<td>(203) 573-8501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu">ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<td>Waterbury, CT 06705</td>
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Directions to IDEAL Campus locations: http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp

To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The school code for the University of Bridgeport is **001416**. Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243.