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 DL2 - Ethics
Semester and Term: Spring 2015
Day and Dates: 3/9/15 – 5/2/2015
Time: Online
Campus Location: Online

Prerequisite Course: ENGL 101
Course Code: HUM, LA, UC

Instructor & contact information
Dr. Claude Perrottet
Email: clauder@bridgeport.edu or Canvas inbox (preferred)

Required Textbook
ISBN: 9780199758814

To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at [http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/](http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/)
Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

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.

Ethics is about the “good life.” Good can mean many things to different people. It can mean what pleases me (or others) but more often, at least in the context of ethics, it means what is “right” in my eyes (or those of others). The issue will then be to define what “right” is. The purpose of a course on ethics is to discuss these issues, both in light of our present circumstances and in terms of historical applications. There are many sub-categories in ethics, including some that have emerged only recently: bioethics, business ethics, and gender ethics. There are also various ways of looking at ethics. Major themes and approaches include normative ethics, metaethics, utilitarian and deontological ethics, as well as ethical relativism. We will consider all of these from a mostly practical point of view. What do they mean to you? This introductory course is not intended to offer a comprehensive overview of all ethical questions. It is primarily designed in such a way as to raise the main questions all of us will be confronted with in our everyday lives.

In particular, we will try to achieve the following:
Course Objectives

1. Develop your ability to evaluate the different sides of an ethical dilemma
2. Develop consensus-building skills (conflict resolution), at least conceptually
3. Develop your ability to make informed ethical judgments
4. Develop your own answers to ethical questions

For this, we will:

- Discuss the validity of assumptions commonly made when dealing with ethics
- Explore major ethical theories by major philosophers
- Discuss key themes in the ethical debate
- Explore several practical applications

Requirements (course work)

General requirements for this course consist of participation, preparedness, and initiative. Students are required to complete all readings, activities, and assignments each week throughout the course. Questions for online discussion will be indicated each week. Completing the readings and assignments on time is crucial to your involvement in the discussion.

Grading Criteria

- Overall participation, including discussion on suggested themes and answering questions, demonstrating that the student has read the assigned material and become seriously involved in the process of reflecting on the issues (25%).
- Two brief essays describing, discussing, and evaluating opposing viewpoints on two separate, concrete issues, based on the review of textbook sections and other material (25%).
- Online exam (covering basic notions and issues introduced during the course); instructions will be given in advance (25%).
- Final project related to one of the topics discussed during the course, using additional, relevant material (after consultation with the instructor) (25%).

Letter Grading Scale

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## Course Schedule

### Week 1 – March 9, 2015

**Topics:** Getting Started – our Approach  
**Readings:** Lecture 1; Weston: pp. 3-40, 279-303.  
*Note:* You may skip the sections entitled “For Review” and “Exercises and Notes” at the end of each chapter (unless I indicate otherwise).  
**Assignments:** None besides the discussion  
**Discussion:** Self-Introduction; Discussion 1

### Week 2 – March 16, 2015

**Topics:** Ethics and Religion, Values  
**Readings:** Lecture 2; Weston, pp. 59-81 (including the Exercises and notes), 85-102.  
**Assignment:** First reflection paper due  
**Discussion:** Discussion 2

### Week 3 – March 23, 2015

**Topics:** Competing ethical visions I: Ethics of the Person, Ethics of Happiness  
**Readings:** Lecture 3; Weston, pp. 112-164  
**Assignment:** None besides the discussion  
**Discussion:** Discussion 3

### Week 4 – March 30, 2015

**Topics:** Competing ethical visions II: Ethics of Virtue, Ethics of Relationship  
**Readings:** Lecture 4; Weston, pp. 173-221  
**Assignment:** Second reflection paper due  
**Discussion:** Discussion 4
### Week 5 – April 6, 2015

**Topics:**  
Key issues to be addressed for constructive ethical practice I: patterns of thought and patterns of speech

**Readings:**  
Lecture 5; Weston, pp. 233-271

**Assignment:**  
None besides the discussion

**Discussion:**  
Discussions 5A and 5B

### Week 6 – April 13, 2015

**Topics:**  
Key issues to be addressed for constructive ethical practice II: going beyond the clash of values – shaping a moral vision

**Readings:**  
Lecture 6; Weston, pp. 312-356

**Assignment:**  
Online Exam

**Discussion:**  
Discussion 6

### Week 7 – April 20, 2015

**Topics:**  
Moral vision and global ethos: Yes? And How?

**Readings:**  
Lecture 7; Weston, pp. 395-416

**Assignment:**  
Discussion 7

**Discussion:**  
See announcement on the Discussion Board

### Week 8 – April 27, 2015

**Topics:**  
Making a Difference - Challenges

**Readings:**  
Lecture 8; critical reading of Weston, Part IV (p. 421 - end)

**Assignment:**  
Final paper / project due on the last day of the course

**Discussion:**  
Open Discussion

**Note**

Precise instructions will be available online at the beginning of the course.
See the Weekly Agenda for specific details about procedures for each week. It is recommended that you print a copy of each week's agenda to use as a reference.

The instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to the syllabus as needed and to make final decisions by using his own judgment.

**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/](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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:bursar@bridgeport.edu">bursar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>(203) 576-4682</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cashier@bridgeport.edu">cashier@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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Notification Phone</td>
<td>(203) 576-4159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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

<table>
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<th>Address</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750</td>
<td>(203) 358-0700</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubstamford@bridgeport.edu">ubstamford@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705</td>
<td>(203) 573-8501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu">ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu</a></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. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416. Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243