Ethics in Contemporary Society (Online)
PHI 2603 1665 & 1666
Course Syllabus
Spring 2013

Course Title: Ethics in Contemporary Society
Course & Section/Reference Numbers: PHI2603 1665 & 1666

Class Meeting Days/Time/Location:
Virtual via eLearning (see Course Week on page 4 of this document for due days, dates, and times)

Credit Hours: 3

Laboratory Fee: None

Prerequisites/Co-Requisites: None

Term A Spring 2013: January 7th – May 4th (including Final Exam week; this course officially ends Wednesday, May 1st)

Instructor: Dr Susan L. Brown  ED.D. Curriculum & Instruction  
M.A. Interdisciplinary Humanities  
B.A. Psychology  
University of West Florida

Department: Philosophy  
Building 50, Room 228 (Department Office)

Department Contact: Dr. Jack Giddens, Office Specialist  
Department Phone: (850) 474-2672

Instructor Contact Information:
✓ Email: sbrown1@uwf.edu (make sure to include the number ‘1’ after sbrown)
✓ Student Phone/Voice Mail: 626-7865 (leave a message; please do not call from an unlisted or anonymous number)
✓ AOL Instant Messenger Username: uwf ethics
✓ Yahoo Messenger Username: uwf_ethics
✓ Webpage: http://www.uwf.edu/sbrown1

Office hours: As this is an online course, there are no designated on campus office hours. Note, however, this does not preclude instructor availability in addressing your course related needs or concerns. You may contact me:
✓ Any evening when I am logged into one of the messenger services noted, above
✓ Via email
✓ By appointment (via messenger or phone)

(Note: I am often online in the evenings. Save my usernames to your buddy or contact lists and please feel free to contact me anytime you see I’m logged on. I welcome the opportunity to work with you, answer any questions or concerns you may have, or just chat a bit.)

Technical Support (ITS): Email: helpdesk@uwf.edu  
Phone: (850) 474-2075
Materials
Note that the materials indicated below are REQUIRED (and will also be on restricted reserve in the library, Pensacola Campus).

- **Required Text**: Ethics: Theory and Practice, Manuel Velasquez & Cynthia Rostankowski
  (contact the bookstore for ISBNs)

Required Software
- Microsoft Word or compatible word processor (this does not include MS Works, PDFs, and the like) and various readers, viewers, and players, as indicated and deemed necessary, throughout the term.

  [NOTE: If you do not have ready access to (or lose access to) some types of software (such as Microsoft Word, MS PowePoint, or Adobe Reader), they may be available to you in the UWF Virtual Computer Lab, eDestop, via MyUWF Desktop.]

- Links to downloads, for some readers and viewers (such as Acrobat Reader and Word and PowerPoint Viewers) and some players (such as RealPlayer and Adobe Flash), are provided via Links. Additional resource materials will be provided by the instructor or will be accessible via the World Wide Web, via UWF course reserve, via eDesktop, or within the course environment.

- **Note to MAC users**: Please be aware that if you are using a Mac (Macintosh), you are responsible for ensuring that all assignments and activities are submitted in formats compatible to those noted, above, and that they are submitted on-time and as directed. Any incompatibility issues are to be directly addressed to ITS (Technical Support; see page 1 of this document for contact information).

Course Description

*Ethics in Contemporary Society* is a *Gordon Rule course* which examines classical and modern western philosophical thought and its application to contemporary ethical issues and problems. Classical and contemporary moral and ethical traditions and theories and their application to modern ideals of the good, in today's society, will be investigated and discussed (*Gordon Rule Course: Writing*).

About This Course/General Studies Curriculum/Essential Considerations

**About This Course**
This section of the course, *Ethics in Contemporary Society*, is delivered completely online. **You MUST have consistent and ongoing access to the Internet (no exceptions)**. You **must** also have working knowledge of basic Web related protocols and processes; of the Internet, of uploading and downloading files, of email, of word processing, and so on. If any of the above is of concern, please contact your advisor for guidance.

Additionally, you must have ongoing access to the required materials, including texts, necessary software, applications, and so on, **throughout the course**.

**General Studies Curriculum**
This course, *Ethics in Contemporary Society*, is designated as a General Studies course. The General Studies curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies.

This course has been approved as meeting your requirement in the Humanities/Values and Expressions
area. The major General Studies learning outcomes for this course are Analysis/Evaluation and Ethical Reasoning.

**Essential Considerations**

Should you have plans for vacation, reunion, travel, and the like, and as this course is completely online, please plan ahead. **You are responsible for ensuring** access to the Internet, for ensuring access to the course, and for timely submission of assignments, throughout the term; this is a standing requirement for the course. Lessons, materials, and assignments **will not** be opened or available in advance nor will extensions be granted.

Online learning may provide a measure of flexibility, convenience, and independence, but please keep in mind that *Ethics in Contemporary Society* is a **Gordon Rule course** and, hence, **writing intensive**. While there is no final paper or term paper, there are weekly writing assignments (papers, group work, discussions, and the like) designed to meet Gordon Rule requirements. Additionally, **all assignments carry a penalty or deduction for late submission** (see Course Criteria/Policy/Expectations, within this document, for details).

While you will generally set your own schedule, participate in class activities at your own convenience (within the parameters and policies set for the course), and work at your own pace, you should also **be prepared to spend an amount of time online**, each week, completing lesson activities and participating in *Ethics Forum* discussions. You may spend some additional time online, during the first few weeks, while you become acquainted with and acclimated to the online class format. Should you initially feel overwhelmed, consider incorporating these tips, early on, as part of your online learning strategy:

- **Set a schedule and check the course web site early in the course week** (which will, most often, open on Thursday) to see what tasks and assignments you'll need to accomplish that week (see **Overview** and individual assignment links, each week, for information).

- **Make use of the weekly **Overview as a checklist** for basic assignment criteria for the week, along with any planning templates (which you would fill in yourself) provided by the instructor. Make sure to **check individual assignment links** for further and additional assignment information and details.

- Become familiar with the site and how to use it. It is a tool to help you learn!

- Team up with your classmates to discuss class assignments and questions you might have. Check the **Classlist** link for biographical information, email addresses, and **Pager** access.

- **Ask questions when you need answers**. If you have a course or assignment related problem, question, or require clarification or assistance, **do not hesitate to contact me ASAP**! I am here to assist you and welcome the opportunity to work with you. If you have a problem or question of an urgent nature, the best ways to contact me are via phone or via messenger (please do not use the pager for issues of an urgent nature, for questions or issues that may require a lengthy reply, or for questions pertaining to grades, late work, or the like). While I am online, quite a bit, I may not be on the course site or in email, but am often logged into messenger, early in the evening, and will be happy to return a call placed to my student voice mail number (make sure to leave a message).
Student Learning Outcomes

Course Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Classify and apply essential elements of selected contemporary and traditional theoretical perspectives.
- Apply terminology specific to, and associated with, selected contemporary and traditional theoretical perspectives.
- Examine and illustrate elements of moral problems inherent in selected contemporary ethical issues and concerns.
- Apply essential elements of selected contemporary and traditional theoretical perspectives to current and individual ethical issues and problems.
- Employ theoretical support for one’s own ethical judgments, positions, and perspectives.
- Employ proper form in academic writing, as indicated by the instructor, including grammar, formatting, and citation techniques.

Course Week

For **Week 1**, the lesson week opens on Monday, January 7th and all **Week 1** assignments are due no later than Wednesday, January 16th.

The course week will, beginning with lesson **Week 2** (Thursday, January 17th), run from **Thursday through the following Wednesday**. Generally, lessons will open no later than Thursday evening (although this may vary from time to time) and all assignments are due no later than 11:59 PM (Central) the following Wednesday evening. All weekly assignments and lesson activities (including papers, Quizzes, and Exams) are due within the lesson week assigned, unless specifically and otherwise indicated by the instructor. See Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, within this document, for information concerning submission of or posting of late assignments and late penalties and deductions.

Grading Components

Grades, for this course, are assessed on a point basis. An updated total point value will be available to you as assignments are assessed, point values are posted, and as allowed by the system.

Various activities will be assigned, throughout the term and that some or all of those listed, below, may be assigned over the course of the term. Assignments are assessed and points evaluated based on the following.

- **Papers/Written Assignments**: 20 points to 30 points each (this will vary for **Week 1** introductory activities; see Papers/Written Activities, under Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, for assignment criteria and late policy)
- **Quizzes**: Weekly or chapter quizzes valued at 1/2-of-a-point to 1 point per quiz item/question (see Quizzes, under Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, for assignment criteria and late policy). No proctoring is expected or required, as of this writing. This policy, however, is subject to change as dictated by department, college, or university policy.
- **Ethics Forum Assignment Discussions**: 10 points for each individual threaded discussion assignment (there may be more than one assigned for a given lesson week), unless otherwise indicated by the instructor; exceptions for group discussions will apply (see Ethics Forum: Standards and Practices, on the course Content page, and Ethics Forum Assignment Discussions, under Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, for assignment criteria and late policy)
- **Participation**: (Replies and responses to original Ethics Forum discussions posts of others): 4
points for each required response as indicated by the instructor (number of required Participation posts will be indicated upon assignment), unless otherwise noted; exception for group discussions will apply (see Ethics Forum: Standards and Practices, on the course Content page and Participation, under Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, of this document, for assignment criteria and late policy).

- **Extra Credit:** Opportunities to earn extra credit or bonus points may be offered at the discretion of the instructor (see Extra Credit/Bonus Assignments, under Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations, for additional information)

- **Group Activities:** Various assignments and activities will be required throughout the first half of the term. Point values will be provided as activities are assigned.

- **Other:** Additional activities may be assigned by the instructor, as deemed appropriate, including overall evaluation of ability to meet lesson objectives or course learning outcomes (outcomes assessments, Exams, or the like). Point values for these activities will be indicated upon assignment, as will directives and criteria relevant to their completion and submission. Late policy will apply as it pertains to the form of the activity and as stipulated by the instructor.

  *Exams:* Should any exams (midterm or final) be assigned, proctoring will be required. Information concerning proctored exams, as required by UWF, may be found, here: http://onlinecampus.uwf.edu/class/proc_exams.cfm

  Activities requiring proctoring or proctor services will be indicated upon assignment.

The maximum possible point value one may earn, over the length of the course, will vary based on assignments offered and the possibility of extra credit offerings. Generally, however, total course points available by way of assigned and required activities will generally fall between 450 points to 550 points.

**Course Criteria/Policies/Expectations**

*As noted, above, the texts are required aspects of the course. Outside sources and resources, although and naturally means of seeking additional information and clarification, are not accepted or acceptable substitutes or alternatives for the required materials* (see page 2, of this document, for information concerning required text materials).

**Lesson Week 1**
For introductory and orientation purposes, assignment criteria for lesson Week 1, will vary from those noted, here. Please see Week 1 Introduction on the course Content page, as well as introductory information provided by the instructor, for details.

**Assignment Descriptions & Criteria**

*Reading Assignments:* The required reading assignments, for each weekly lesson, will be indicated under the heading Reading Assignments or Reading Assignments/Videos, under the main lesson week heading. These will include the weekly lesson Overview, possibly a lecture, assignments from the texts, as well as other materials, as indicated by the instructor. Some may take the form of a PDF File, a Word Document, a Web page, a PowerPoint presentation, a video, or other resources as deemed appropriate. Links to downloads of readers, viewers, and players are provided on the Links page of the EICS (Ethics in Contemporary Society) course pages (and a player need not be downloaded until or unless specified by the instructor).

Unless otherwise stipulated and once again, all materials designated by the instructor are required elements of the course. *It is expected that you will access and complete all Reading Assignments prior to completing and submitting written and Ethics Forum discussion*
assignments and other indicated and required activities. No substitute materials will be accepted in lieu of the required and indicated materials.

*Papers/Written Assignments:
Criteria for written assignments, such as papers and the like, will be posted, under the relevant week, as individual links on the Content page under the heading Written Assignment. All papers must be word processed (using Microsoft Word, only), properly formatted, and a minimum word requirement applies and will be indicated in the context of each assignment (which excludes heading information, headers, and Works Cited page).

All papers will be in essay form (no bullets, enumeration, or inclusion of assignment elements or questions), using proper formatting and form, proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Additionally, proper citation of sources, in the body of the text and in a Works Cited page, is required. Note that, unless specifically indicated by the instructor, quoted or verbatim materials are to be, specifically, avoided; paraphrase and cite. An MLA Handout will be provided, by the instructor, to assist in formatting and in citing sources (located under Handouts/Study Materials on the Content page). The handout will be the means by which form, formatting, and certain elements of grammar will be assessed.

Chapter or topically related papers may take the form of application papers, reaction papers, or discussion papers in which you will be required to discuss an aspect of ethical theory, elaborate upon an ethical theory or a particular philosopher's point of view, and apply a given theory (or theories) to a current ethical issue or scenario.

Written assignments may also take the form of a reflection paper or a journal entry. These may focus on your perspectives concerning ethics and ethical theory, the application of theory to personal experience, and other aspects of the course as they may apply to or be relevant to you, your experiences, or your perspectives.

All papers are considered true academic endeavors and are to remain focused on the topics or questions, ASPOSED, utilizing and explicitly stating specific theories, concepts, and ideas from the text or other specified sources for support, as indicated. Once again, no substitute materials will be accepted in lieu of the required materials.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all papers are successfully uploaded to the Dropbox, are uploaded as per instructor directives, in a timely fashion, and in Microsoft Word or a compatible word processor (MAC users; please see the note on page 2 of this document).

The most efficient means of ensuring that a paper has been submitted successfully is to, after upload, return to the relevant Dropbox folder and click on the uploaded document file link. If there is no link or the file does not open correctly, resubmit the assignment. Do not assume that a file has attached; make sure to double check.

Should there be an issue with the eLearning system (and only if there is an issue with the system), itself, the alternate or back-up method of submission is to me as an email attachment, subsequently followed by upload to the appropriate Dropbox folder when available (note, however, I do not accept late submissions via email), along with contact with ITS to troubleshoot the problem (this is a requirement).

DO NOT submit a paper via email due to late submission or as a resubmission unless specifically directed to do so by the instructor. Once again, double checking the relevant Dropbox folder after upload to ensure submission is the responsibility of the student and in order to avoid a point deduction or loss of credit.
***Submitting Written Assignments/Papers

As a rule, papers will be uploaded using the Dropbox, the link to which may be found on the eLearning toolbar. In any case, written assignments and journals will be saved as Word document files (only) using the following formats as dictated by the assignment: LastnameFirstinitial_journal 1 (example: SmithA_journal 1) or LastnameFirstinitial_application 1 (example: SmithA_application 1) and so on. If you have any comments you would like to make, concerning an assignment paper, include them in the comment box available on the upload page (do not include them in or on the paper). If you have any questions concerning a submission or an assignment, please communicate them directly to the instructor via email, phone, or instant messenger.

All written assignments or papers are due for submission within the lesson week assigned, unless otherwise noted. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of 2 points per week and no late submissions will be accepted for credit in excess of 7 days after an given assignment's due date. Note late submissions will not be accepted for assignments with a two week submission period.

See also the exceptions for lesson Weeks 13 through 16, below.

PLEASE NOTE: Late submissions for any written work, Ethics Forum discussions, Participation, or other activities assigned or due during lesson Weeks 13 through 16 will NOT be accepted for credit. This is in effect and holds for any activities that may be assigned or are due for submission in Weeks 13, 14, 15, and 16 (final exam week).

*Quizzes:
Topical or chapter Quizzes will be assigned, throughout the term. Most frequently, they may consist of approximately 8 to 15 items each and may take various forms, or a combination of forms, including multiple choice items, true/false, short answer, or essay.

Each quiz will be timed (once you access a Quiz, there will be a maximum time limit for completion), each may be accessed only once (which may be monitored by the instructor), and each will be available for completion only during the week assigned and within the parameters indicated (including time limits as gauged by the eLearning system). No late submissions will be accepted for credit (that is, Quizzes will not be reopened), unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. Additional criteria for, and the information covered by, each Quiz will be provided upon assignment. No proctoring is expected for chapter or topical Quizzes. This policy is, however, subject to change as dictated by department, college, or university policy.

Exams: Should any exams, such as midterm or final, be assigned, proctoring will be required. Information concerning proctored exams, as required by UWF, may be found, here: http://onlinecampus.uwf.edu/class/proc_exams.cfm

Activities requiring proctoring or proctor services will be indicated upon assignment.

Note, also, that any test other forms of assessment, are not partner or group activities. Any indication of academic dishonesty in this area will result in further investigation, may result in grade sanction (that is, a grade of 0 for the test), and may be subject to further and additional sanctions as dictated by department, college, and university policy.

Once again, tests are due to be completed and submitted within the lesson week assigned and are, therefore, not accepted for late credit or reopened for credit.

Further information and criteria concerning Quizzes will be provided as assigned.

*Ethics Forum Assignment Discussions:
The Ethics Forum is an important element in this course and a means by which the ethical theories, ideas,
and issues will be examined and explored (and one means by which Gordon Rule requirements will be met). **All discussion posts should be in essay form** (no lists, enumeration, bullets), using complete sentences, proper grammar, spelling, punctuation (including quotation marks, as appropriate), and in text citation. A word minimum (of 100 words) also applies, unless otherwise stipulated (exceptions for group assignments will apply). Additionally, discussion posts should be word processed and copied and pasted directly into the discussion windows: **Do not post discussions as document or file attachments** as they will not be accepted or assessed for credit. These assignments should be posted to the original topic thread via the Compose button/function. **Do not** post an original Ethics Forum assignment discussion as a reply to another student’s post, as it will likely be assessed as Participation or fail to receive credit. Additionally, do not post in colored type, exceptionally small fonts, exceptionally large fonts, or obscure or difficult to read fonts.

Quality of discussion is an additional consideration in posting to the Ethics Forum. Discussions should be original, thorough, and thoughtful, focusing upon and utilizing, explicitly and specifically stating, and applying the concepts encountered in the weekly lessons, as directed (including use of indicated sources and materials). They should remain focused and relevant, addressing the topics and questions under discussion. Additionally, all discussions and positions must be supported by way of the relevant, indicated theories and concepts and this information must be cited by page number (or paragraph number for an Internet resource). Note that no alternative resources will be accepted as substitutions for the required and indicated. Any outside or alternatives resources may only be used as supplements to the required materials.

Unless otherwise indicated within the assignment criteria, quoted and verbatim materials will be avoided. For all Ethics Forum discussions, concisely paraphrase ideas, concepts, and the like, taken from the texts or other sources (as indicated) and cite this information by page number (or paragraph number for an Internet resource). Posts using ideas and concepts taken from additional sources, other than those indicated by the instructor (required sources), will include both an in text citation, as well as a full reference citation (full source information, including an URL if applicable) at the end of the post. Once again, no alternative resources will be accepted as substitutions for the required and indicated course materials.

Additional Ethics Forum criteria, policies, and expectations, as they pertain to citation, use of personal pronouns, use of quotations, and the like may be found in Ethics Forum: Standard and Practices, located on the course Content page, and are indicated in EICS-FAQs. Criteria specific to an individual discussion assignment will be provided via the relevant Ethics Forum assignment page/link. (Make sure to check weekly assignment pages/links for additional, specific criteria and variations, thereof. Do not assume that all criteria for any Ethics Form assignment are provided in this document, in the Ethics Forum discussion area, or in Overview).

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that Ethics Forum discussions (as well as Participation responses; see below) are successfully posted to the threaded discussions and that they are posted in a timely manner. As this is the case, I strongly suggest, first, writing and saving all posts as a Word or compatible document file, then copying and pasting the material into the text box. Second, make sure to double check and review the posts after they have been submitted to the system by returning to the main assignment thread(s). A post lost in the virtual void will not be accepted as an excuse to avoid a late penalty or loss of credit.

*Ethics Forum* Group Discussion:
There will be one Ethics Forum group discussion on an assigned aspect of Immanuel Kant’s theory, during the theoretical portion of the course, with requisite individual Participation responses and preparatory activities to be assigned. Further information concerning assigned groups, conceptual aspects, relevant activities, preparatory activities, assignment criteria, and materials will be provided upon assignment. No late submissions for this activity will be accepted for credit.
Late Ethics Forum assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1 point per discussion and no late discussion posts will be accepted for credit in excess of 7 days of the original assignment due date.

For additional and further information concerning standards, practices, and expectations, as they pertain to the Ethics Forum, see Ethics Forum: Standards and Practices, found on the course Content page. Please see the note provided under Written Assignments, on page 7 of this document, concerning late policy concerning Ethics Forum activities assigned in lesson Weeks 13 through 16.

*Participation (via the Ethics Forum): Participation, for this course, is reflective of weekly attendance and will be gauged through your interaction with others via the Ethics Forum. Participation will be based on an indicated minimum number of responses to others’ original discussion posts on each assignment or topic thread, as stipulated by the instructor within the weekly lesson assignment criteria. The same written, content, and posting criteria (including thorough, thoughtful, and substantive; specifically focusing upon, using, explicitly stating, and applying ethical theory and concepts; no document or file attachments; and so on), as stipulated for the Ethics Forum discussion posts, apply, as does a word minimum (35 words), unless otherwise noted (an exception will apply for the group discussion assignment and other assignments as deemed appropriate by the instructor).

The Ethics Forum Participation element is, once again, reflective of attendance, and must be timely in order to be effective and productive. As this is the case, late Participation responses (that is, those posted after the lesson due date or closing date) will not be accepted for credit. Additionally, to receive credit, a Participation response must be in reply to another’s original assignment discussion post and must be directly attached (by way of the Reply button/function) to a given student’s original assignment discussion post thread. (Do not post Participation responses as new, independent threads or as replies to others’ responses to originals, including those for group discussion assignments).

Participation responses must be substantive, meet word minimums, and remain focused on the topic or discussion by stating and applying the relevant and indicated theoretical (philosophical) perspective or perspectives. Responses such as “I enjoyed your post and think you did a great job of answering the question”, “I think you posted a good response. You helped me understand the chapter better”, “I agree, euthanasia is wrong,” or quotes from another student’s original post do not constitute substantive participation responses nor are they considerations as to word minimums. Finally, a response to another is to be placed at the top of the text pane or window, above the <<Replied to message below>> line; do not leave it to the instructor and classmates to attempt to differentiate between your response and another’s original discussion.

Further criteria, specific to a given week’s Participation, will be provided via the relevant Ethics Forum assignment link. (Once again, make sure to check weekly assignment pages or links for additional specific criteria and variations thereof).

Note: To differentiate between main/original posts and responding posts of others, make sure that the Default Message List View is set to Threaded. This may be accomplished by way of Settings located at top right of the Ethics Forum page.

For additional and further information concerning standards, practices, and expectations, as they pertain to Ethics Forum Participation, see Ethics Forum: Standards and Practices, found on the course Content page. Please keep in mind that Ethics Forum: Standards and Practices, as discussed, here, and as posted to the course Content page are aspects of instructor and course policy and violation, thereof, may result in deduction, loss of credit, or other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the instructor.
As noted earlier, discussion is a vital component in this course; the goal being to engage in civil, critical dialogue (critical as in evaluative and analytical, not as in judgmental or derogatory). It is, therefore, essential (and expected), in posting to assignment discussions or in responding to others, that each articulates and supports his or her ethical position or stance in a rational, philosophical manner specifically stating and applying the indicated theoretical ideas and perspectives.

NOTE: Should you not agree with another’s position or believe that a significant concept has been overlooked or misevaluated, respond tactfully and respectfully, with a well supported argument using and applying specific ideas from the indicated philosophical perspectives in justifying your position. Such responses as “I think you’re wrong”, “How could you think such a thing”, “Everyone knows/thinks/believes...,” or “Everyone should know/think/believe...,” and the like, are unacceptable as are other forms of generalization, personal attacks, discriminatory or stereotypical remarks (including, but not limited to, gender or sexual orientation), and/or judgmental, discourteous, or offensive behaviors (as deemed so by the instructor).

This includes, but is not limited to, stating, indicating, or otherwise alluding that another’s post, ideas, perspectives, or interpretations are ‘stupid’, ‘asinine’, ‘ridiculous’, ‘idiotic’, or equivalents, thereof. Discussion and dialogue are both expected and encouraged, yet it is also expected that all discussion will be conducted in an academically professional manner, once again, specifically stating, utilizing, and applying the philosophical and ethical concepts as dictated by the assignment directives and the instructor. Any violation of Ethics Forum Standards as to etiquette, in any form, is subject to grade sanction (a grade of 0) and, depending on the offense, to other action as deemed appropriate by the instructor and, as necessary, departmental guidelines. Additional or further instances will be handled as deemed appropriate by the instructor and the department chair.

Finally, complaints or questions concerning or issues pertaining to the course, the assignments, tests, the text, other students, or any other aspect of the course are not appropriate topics for posting to or discussion via the Ethics Forum nor are they conducive to the promotion of productive dialogue and discussion. Any issues, questions, concerns, or problems should be and will be addressed to the instructor, individually and directly, via email, messenger, or phone.

Any disruption of the course or to the course environment, dependant upon the offense and as deemed so by the instructor, may result in a grade sanction and additional action as deemed appropriate by the instructor or the department chair.

*Extra Credit/Bonus Assignments:
Opportunities to earn extra credit or bonus points may be offered at the discretion of the instructor. These may take the form of a quiz, paper, project, or other relevant activity. Assignment and assessment criteria will be provided as assignments are offered.

*Other Assignments:
Additional activities may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion. Specific expectations, directives, and criteria will be provided upon assignment.
Quizzes, Exams, and Extra Credit Quizzes, will not become available until after the closing or due date and all administrative criteria have been met. Once again, this also may be based on the form or type of assessment applied.

Percentage Grading Scale:
Note that activities for this course are assessed on a point scale. The final grade, though and as a percentage, will be converted to a letter grade, as follows:

- A = 93-100
- A- = 90-92
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 83-86
- B- = 80-82
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 73-76
- C- = 70-72
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 60-66
- F = 0-59

Additional information, concerning this course, may be found in the introductory course materials and other materials, criteria, and directives as provided by the instructor. Questions or concerns, pertaining to the course, should be directed to the instructor. See page 1, of this document, for contact information.

Note that the criteria and information discussed, herein, are subject to change. Should you have any questions or require any assistance, please contact the instructor by messenger, email, or phone.

Withdrawal Policy

Tentatively and as of this syllabus edition, the withdrawal deadline for this course (Term A) with a grade of W, is March 22nd and with a grade of W or WF (at the discretion of the instructor) is April 26. Note, however, that these dates are only tentative. Make sure to check the UWF Academic Calendar and with the registrar or your advisor for specific dates and information. Withdrawals after the deadline, as per UWF policy, will not be approved except for:
1. A death in the immediate family.
2. Serious illness of the student or an immediate family member.
3. A situation deemed similar to categories 1 and 2 by all in the approval process.
4. Withdrawal due to Military Service (Florida Statute 1004.07)
5. National Guard Troops Ordered into Active Service (Florida Statute 250.482)

Students who do not officially withdraw will be assigned a standard letter grade. Late withdrawals must be approved by the student’s advisor, instructor of the course, department chairperson, and finally, the University Academic Appeals Committee. Make sure to check with an advisor, first, before beginning the process. Students who withdraw are not enrolled as of the date the withdrawal is processed.

Plagiarism/Academic Conduct

This is a writing intensive course and the use of the texts and other materials will be required in meeting and completing certain course requirements. The work of others (e.g. Ethics Forum discussions, Participation) will also be available for all to view. Care should be taken in using the ideas and words of others, including the author of the course texts or other students on the Ethics Forum. Plagiarism, or “the appropriation of or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work” (“Plagiarism,” def. 1) will be avoided by citing
**sources and using quotation marks** when and where appropriate and as dictated by the MLA Handout, university policy, and standard academic practice. Essentially, to use another person’s work, words, ideas, concepts, theories, or thoughts, without giving them the credit they are due (whether directly quoted or paraphrased) and indicating them as such is plagiarism and I cannot place enough emphasis on the importance of citing sources. [Reference: “Plagiarism.” *Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary* New York: Barnes & Noble, 1992.]

Note, also, that recycling material from another course or other courses or material written or intended for another purpose or other purposes (whether for another course or not) may also be deemed plagiarism. **Such use must be approved by the instructor.** Should you have any questions concerning proper citation, what may or may not constitute improper use of another’s work, or reuse of your own work, please do not hesitate to contact me. Keep in mind that plagiarism, in any form, is a serious academic offense and any incidence will be managed as per department and university guidelines.

The University of West Florida and the instructor of this course make use of **Turnitin**; a resource that assists in identifying instances of plagiarism (be they from the Web, other students, or other resources). All activities and assignments submitted or posted, for this course, are subject to review by way of **Turnitin**.

For further information on what constitutes plagiarism and UWF’s policy see the UWF Student Handout. See, also, a brief discussion at the URL’s included below:

<http://plagiarism.org/>
<http://uwf.edu/StudentAffairs/division/publications/PlagBroch.pdf>

For information concerning UWF’s policy and expectations concerning Academic Conduct, see the most recent edition/version of the UWF Student Handbook.

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**SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

Students with a documented disability who require specific examination or course related academic accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) by email at sdrc@uwf.edu or by phone at (850) 474-2387.

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at the University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, please notify the instructor or the SDRC as soon as possible. You may contact the SDRC office by e-mail at sdrc@uwf.edu or by phone at (850) 474-2387. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual.

**Philosophy Major/Further Study**

If you are interested in pursuing further studies in philosophy, please feel free to contact the Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Dr. Sally Ferguson, at sallyf@uwf.edu. If you are undecided as to your major, make sure to contact your academic advisor or the Career Center at 850-474-2254.