

**IDEAL PROGRAM
PHIL 203 Ethics Fall 2013
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Dear Student,

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 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 our classes 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 of time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend a minimum of ten-twelve hours per week on course material.

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

1. Attend every class session. Be on time.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the first class session.
3. Complete the first assignment prior to the first class session and all subsequent assignments to the best of your ability.
4. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.

If you cannot perform these four expectations, **it is recommended that you drop the course.**

Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if the student earned a grade of "B" in the course, the final grade would be a "C"). If a student misses two or more classes a grade of F will be entered as their final grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism

It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with and adhere to the standards set forth in the policies on cheating and plagiarism as defined in Chapters 2 and 5 of the Key to UB <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2623.asp> or the appropriate graduate program handbook

E-mail correspondence

It is imperative that you check your UB e-mail on a regular basis. All written correspondence, to include IDEAL and the University will be sent to you through his e-mail. **The University can no longer correspond to your personal e-mail account(s).**

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.

The IDEAL Program

Course: PHIL 203 WB8W2 , Ethics

Day: Tuesdays

Dates: 10/22/13- 12/10/2013

Time: 6PM-9PM

Campus: Waterbury

Course Description:

Philosophy 203 is a General introduction to Ethics, Theories of Morality, Contemporary Ethical Issues and Problems. Our Course, Ethics (Philosophy 203) introduces students to certain major concepts in ethics-exploring the questions, "What is good/right? What is good?" Answers to these questions constitute major modes of ethical discourse. The class also will explore questions in applied ethics and consider ethical dilemmas to illuminate concepts in ethics. The course surveys five moral and political theories: utilitarianism, libertarianism, Kantian ethics, welfare liberalism, and virtue ethics. The course emphasizes understanding evaluating and applying these theories. Applications include the areas of abortion, gay marriage, surrogate motherhood, affirmative action and others. *The course fulfills a Core Humanities requirement.*

Instructor: Professor Kemal Argon

Email: kargon@bridgeport.edu

Required Readings:

Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* (Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; ISBN: 978-0-374-18065-2)

To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at: <http://www.bridgeportbookstore.com>
Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. understand and appreciate what it means to think and live philosophically.
2. understand and appreciate what it means to think and live ethically.
3. understand and critically assess a variety of moral and political theories.
4. understand and critically assess alternative solutions to a range of moral problems.

Assignments:

1. Reading Assignments: Each week, you will read two chapters of Michael J. Sandel's *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Before class begins, you should identify and reflect on the moral issues that the reading raises. Come to class prepared to share your reflections.
2. **Reaction Papers:** Each week, you will write a 600-900 word reaction paper on a moral issue raised in the assigned reading. Guidelines for reaction papers can be found at the end of this syllabus.
3. Oral Presentation: You will give a ten-minute presentation on a moral issue raised in the assigned reading. Guidelines for your oral presentation can be found at the end of this syllabus.

Grading Criteria:

1. Class Participation (30%) = (in class 15%; online with Canvas: 15%)
2. 1 At Home Essay due at FIRST Session (2-3 pages)..... 10%
3. Two Reaction Papers (20%)
4. Research Paper 20%
5. Oral Presentation (10%)

LATE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DOWNGRADED.

Letter Grading Scale:

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade	% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
100-94	A	76-74	C
93-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-84	B	66-64	D
83-80	B-	63-60	D-
79-77	C+	Below 60	F

CANVAS COMPONENT

Every week there will be discussion questions or readings posted. A weekly response to these materials of at least 150 words **and** one 150 word response to another student's posting are required. If you are having difficulty with Canvas please call the Help Desk at 203-576-4606.

Description of Weekly Sessions:

WEEK 1 (October 22, 2013) What is the Right Thing to do? Starting the topic of Utilitarianism.

Reading: Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Chapters 1-2

Due: 1 At Home Essay due at FIRST Session (2-3 pages).....

Title of Essay: Who can say and who is to judge what is Right and what is Wrong? - As there are different ways of thinking and judging in the world generally and in our society so who should be the judge of right and wrong. Should it be the individual, the group, the society or which group and which society? Make this 2-3 pages. Justify and support your opinions and conclusions. You do not need the book to complete this essay.

WEEK 2 (October 29, 2013) Topic: Utilitarianism and Libertarianism

Reading: Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Chapters 3-4

Due: 1st Reaction Paper on a topic in chapter 3 or 4.

REACTION PAPER GUIDELINES:

Your reaction papers will have two parts and be a minimum of two to three pages long. You should submit each reaction paper as a hard copy and via email to kargon@bridgeport.edu. When you submit a reaction paper as a hard copy, make sure its pages are stapled together in the upper left corner. When you submit a reaction paper via email, make sure it is copied and pasted in the email message. I will not open attachments. Each reaction paper should be 900-1200 words. Hard copies should be typed. Use double-spacing, with one-inch margins on all sides. Use 12-point font. Use a standard typeface, such as Times New Roman.

Part 1: What is the author's intended message?

This assignment is an exercise in reflecting critically on the content of the author's writing.(It is not an exercise in sharing your personal opinions without critical reflection or without reference

to the concepts in the text.) Look at the author's written content as it relates to your personal goals in this class. Then ask if the material stimulates you and whether or not it is valid, reliable, or meaningful. Ask yourself what your reaction was to the authors' research and findings. Then state your understanding of what the author's intended message and meaning is.

Part 2: Questions Analysis:

What significant questions occurred for you as a result of the readings, class periods and from your experience? What questions or issues would you like to discuss with your fellow students? If you are practicing critical thinking then new questions will constantly be arising. Not having any questions is a warning sign that you are not reflecting critically.

WEEK 3 (November 5th, 2013) Topic: Immanuel Kant and Kantianism

Hired Help/ Markets and Morals

Reading: Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Chapters 5-6

Due: 2nd Reaction Paper in chapter 5 or 6.

WEEK 4 (November 12, 2013) Affirmative Action ; Aristotle

Reading: Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Chapters 7-8

Due: No Written Assignment Due

WEEK 5 (November 19, 2013)

Reading: Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Chapters 9-10

Due: 1. Oral Presentation Topic. 2. Draft Outline of Research Paper due NOTE: Research papers are to be 5-7 pages double spaced. Follow similar guidelines to the reaction papers as stated above. Use at least five academic sources. Have a clear thesis statement and a clear conclusion.

WEEK 6 (November 26, 2013) Integrative discussion: Student Oral presentations.

No Written Assignment Due.

WEEK 7 (December 3, 2013) Integrative discussion: Student Oral presentations

Due: Final Draft of Research paper:

WEEK 8 (December 10, 2013) Integrative discussion: Student Oral presentations.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to attend all class sessions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student, prior to class, should advise the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for additional assignments if appropriate. It is also expected that students arrive on time and not leave until the class is dismissed. Tardiness will result in a reduced grade for the course. If you cannot attend every class session you should consider dropping the course.

IMPORTANT:

- **Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if the student earned a grade of "B" in the course, the final grade would be a "C").**
- **Missing two or more class sessions will be cause for a failing grade.**

Incomplete grade

An incomplete may be given, at the discretion of the instructor, to those students who fail to complete assignments due the last day of your course. These would include absence from a final examination or inability to complete terminal assignments (papers, presentations) due to illness, employment conflicts, etc.

Incompletes will not be given to a student who fails to complete any assignment during the term. At the discretion of the instructor, these assignments could be completed no later than the last scheduled day of your class.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the following web page:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

Starting Fall 2012

- Add and/or Drop a course after the start date.....\$30.00 per transaction
- Drop prior to the start of classes.....100% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the second class session.....75% Tuition Refund
- Drop prior to the third class session.....50% Tuition Refund
- Drop after the third class session.....0% Tuition Refund

****Please note students will not be automatically dropped for missing the first class. Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade. If you have to miss the first class, or the first week of class for online classes, *you must contact your instructor in writing before or after the first class/first week. However, a grade reduction will apply.***

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 Academic Calendar to see the fees for a drop and the impact on tuition. The Academic Calendar can be found at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2595.asp>

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

We are committed to intellectual integrity in our academic pursuits; therefore, 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 computer-programming course. He has co-workers who program in the same language as his final project. As the end of the term approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the project finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a disk with a complete program similar to the kind required for the course project. The student makes minor modifications to the program, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a religious studies course has never taken a humanities or history course, and is unsure about how to structure a research paper. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across a paper written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the document 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 as well as in the library. 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 classes; 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

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://myub.bridgeport.edu/academics/academicrescenter/Pages/default.aspx> The Center is located in the Wahlstrom Library, Room 506. Hours of operation are Mondays –Thursday 9am – 6pm and Fridays 9am – 1pm. 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 your grades, access library services, access online tutoring, access the computers in 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 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.

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. Information on WebAdvisor is password protected and requires you to use your UBNet username and password. To access WebAdvisor, go to: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/webadvisor>

1. Login in with your UBNet username and password.
2. Click on “Student Menu.”
3. Click on “My Grades.”

If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

You can access the library through the library's website: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/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.

To access the online journals for research purposes, you will need a UBNet account (see above).

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three campuses:

- 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/ Weather Policy

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.

Please note each campus makes weather cancellations independently. You should always check with the specific campus staff. It is best to call the campus emergency phone.

Bridgeport – 203-576-4159

Waterbury - 203-573-8501

Stamford – 203-358-0700

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Contact	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security		(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu
Bursar	Robinson Hernandez	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	Lana Mistry	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid		(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Registrar		(203) 576-4642	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone		(203) 576-4159	
Distance Education Office		(203) 576-4853	ubonline@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive	(203) 358-0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu

	Stamford, CT 06750		
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573-8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu
Woodbridge	6 Lunar Drive Woodbridge, CT 06525	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
IDEAL Office		(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations	http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp
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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.

GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

1. You will give one oral presentation. It should last at least ten minutes. If you would like to use any audiovisual equipment, please let me know as far in advance of your presentation as possible.
2. Your presentation will be on or starting from a topic from one of the last eight chapters of Michael J. Sandel's *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* By or before WEEK 5 during class, you should let me know definitively which chapter and topic your presentation will focus on. Your research paper and oral presentation should NOT be on the same subject.
3. Be careful not to take on so much that you cannot do justice to the material. Focus on a manageable topic and aspect of a chapter.
4. Speak clearly. Avoid speaking too fast. Maintain eye contact with the class. If it helps, have notes in front of you, but do not read your presentation—the only time you should read is when you are quoting somebody. Make clear when you are quoting. Above all, be prepared—avoid awkward pauses as you search through your notes for what you need to say next.
5. Important to note is that grading of your oral presentation is unavoidably subjective. Therefore, your instructor will be looking for how well you present the issue(s) you have chosen to present on, the important salient aspects of the issue(s), and the clarity and cogency of your own rationale/thinking about the topic. In other words, “the main existing statements and arguments about this chosen topic appear to be as follows AND I agree or disagree in whole or in part AND I say the following for the following reasons.” I am interested in *your* ideas. However, you should use sources of information beyond the course reading and cite these adequately. As with your reaction papers, ask **What is the author's intended message?** This oral presentation is also an exercise in reflecting critically on the content of the author's writing. (It is not an exercise in only sharing your personal opinions without critical reflection or without reference to the concepts in the text and outside research material.) Look at the author's written content as it relates to your personal goals in this class. Then ask if the material stimulates you and whether or not it is valid, reliable, or meaningful. Ask yourself what your reaction was to the authors' research and findings. Then state your understanding of what the author's intended message and meaning is. Also, as with your reaction papers,do a **Questions Analysis:** What significant questions occurred for you as a result of the readings, class periods and from your experience? What questions or issues would you like to discuss with your fellow students? If you are practicing critical thinking then new questions will constantly be arising. Not having any questions is a warning sign that you are not reflecting critically.
6. For the oral presentation, prepare a short written executive summary for me which you will hand in on the day of the presentation and which will also partly be used to assess your oral presentation. On this executive summary, make sure that you write down each outside source you use. If you fail to cite sources, you will get a zero for your presentation.