Course Expectations Letter

Subject: Philosophy 120: Introduction to Ethics

E-Mail Contact Information:
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Catalog Course Description:
This introductory level course is for students interested in the humanities, law, medicine, politics, social science and related fields, and will expose them to some of the most profound moral and ethical questions in the Western philosophical tradition. We will examine the concept of morality and values, representative ethical theories, and may include their applications to moral problems.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Throughout this term, your performance on student learning outcomes will be evaluated. Outcomes to be assessed may include the following:

1. Given a particular set of hypothetical circumstances (the "problem") and prior exposure to major ethical theories (e.g., ethical egoism, subjectivism, ethical relativism, utilitarianism, Kantianism/deontological theories, or virtue ethics), the student will interpret the circumstances and identify what course of action would be the "right thing to do" according to the selected theory.
2. Given prior instruction on a topic of philosophical interest, the student will demonstrate the ability to formulate and defend a philosophical position by clearly articulating a thesis statement and providing supporting points.
3. Given an essay, chapter, or other philosophical text, the student will demonstrate understanding of the key ideas by accurately identifying the main point and some key supporting points.
4. Having been provided the relevant theoretical background, the student will compare and contrast the basic concepts, values, and principles of at least two ethical theories.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of major ethical theories, including Kantianism, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics.

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

- Timely e-mail response
- Regular course announcements and updates
- Timely feedback on quizzes and exams
- Timely feedback and interaction via the course discussion board
- On-campus office hour visits, as needed

Because this is a fully online course, it requires online participation. You should expect to make frequent visits to our class website to review the lecture notes and to take all of your quizzes and exams. If you are unwilling, or unable, to satisfy these demands, you should reconsider taking this course. All of our quizzes and exams must be taken online. If you are unfamiliar with the internet, or how to access and use our course website, you should seek assistance immediately. Since we have no scheduled in-person meetings, it is assumed that you are dedicating, on your own, the time at home, and online, to reading, reviewing, and studying.
The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientation can be found at: http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the Disabled Students & Programs office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.