



# COURSE EXPECTATION LETTER

**Subject:**

PHIL 122 Philosophical Perspectives on Death and Dying

**Email Contact Information:**

[sdixon@riohondo.edu](mailto:sdixon@riohondo.edu)

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course introduces students to a broad array of themes associated with death and dying. Students consider both practical and philosophical aspects of death, comparing the concept of death historically, socially, psychologically, and cross-culturally. Current legal, medical, and ethical issues related to death and dying will be explored through the lens of philosophy, with topics that may include suicide, euthanasia, moral and social issues stemming from modern medical technology, hospice and palliative care, end-of-life issues, violent deaths, mass killings, and the beliefs and customs of various cultures worldwide concerning death and the possibility of an afterlife. This course is well suited for students interested in the humanities, law, medicine, politics, social science and related fields, or for those seeking to improve their ability to process and respond to death and dying in a healthy manner.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Employ techniques and strategies that promote understanding of dying, death, and suicide from various perspectives (historical, psychological, physiological, social, philosophical, and cross-cultural).

Given examples of end of life situations, students will identify legal, medical, and ethical issues and articulate them correctly.

Provided with a practical scenario on violent deaths, students will demonstrate the implications on society.

Given coursework and instruction, students will demonstrate how course materials relate to life long understanding.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

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

Over the course of the semester there will be regular instructor student contact.

**Methods of student contact include:**

Timely e-mail and Canvas messaging responses (generally, within 24 hours, excluding weekends or special circumstances).

Regular course announcements and updates.

Timely feedback on assignments, as needed

Student appointments through Zoom as needed.

### **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.*

### **Additional Information:**

This course covers mature topics (in addition to others) including suicide, murder, and occult activities. More so, this course speaks freely about death and dying. If you've recently lost someone of significance to you, this course may not be the best choice given the emphasis.