

## Lehman College/CUNY

### **LEH300/Section 01W or 03W: Ethics and Decision Making in Literature and Film** (spring 2007)

*Instructor:* Janet R. DeSimone

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*Office Phone:* 718.960.4993

*Office Location:* Carman Hall, B01

*Office Hours:* Mondays, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m. or by appointment.

*Class Days/Times:*

M – 9:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. (section 03W)

OR

M – 2 to 4:30 p.m. (section 01W)

*Course Description:*

Through literature and film, this writing-intensive course will examine decision making as a process and the ethical dimensions inherent in making choices that significantly impact the lives of others. Emphasis will be placed on decision-making strategies that embrace integrity, impartiality, authenticity, and respect. Various decision-making theories will also be explored.

*Required Text: (should be available in Lehman's bookstore)*

Hosseini, K. (2003). *The kite runner*. New York: Riverhead Books.

Miller, A. (1953). *The crucible*. New York: Penguin Books.

*Course Requirements:*

- You are expected to attend class meetings, to be on time, and to complete the assigned readings prior to the class when we will be discussing the readings. If there is an extraordinary situation, and you are unable to attend class, please notify me prior to the class meeting. Since this class meets only once per week, more than two absences will result in a failing grade for the class.
- I believe that everyone has an opinion/idea to share; therefore, active participation and involvement are extremely important. Each class member brings unique experiences and beliefs into the classroom and such variety ultimately leads to diverse and interesting discussions.
- All assignments must be typed, and no late assignments will be accepted.
- Every student must have access to their Lehman e-mail account and must be able to access the Blackboard system, since assignments will be posted electronically.

*Class Meetings and Assignment Due Dates*

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January 29	Introductions Discussion of ethics
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February 5	Decision-making models and theories
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February 12	NO CLASS – Lincoln’s Birthday
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Thursday, February 15	CLASS MEETS (follows a Monday schedule) Sophie’s Choice
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**\*\*Assignment: Submit Essay #1 (two pages)**

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February 19	NO CLASS – President’s Day
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Wednesday, February 21	CLASS MEETS (follows a Monday schedule) Unfaithful
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February 26	<i>The Crucible</i> (A. Miller)
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**\*\*Assignment: Submit Essay #2 (two-three pages)  
Submit Final Paper Topic (bring book to class)**

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March 5	12 Angry Men
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March 12	Hotel Rwanda
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March 19	Paradise Now
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March 26                                      *The Kite Runner* (K. Hosseini)

**\*\*Assignment: Submit Essay #3 (three-four pages)**

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April 2    NO CLASS – Spring Recess

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April 9    NO CLASS – Spring Recess

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April 16    A Simple Plan

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April 23    House of Sand and Fog

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April 30    Student Presentations

**\*\*Assignment: Submit Final Paper (five-seven pages)**

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May 7    Student Presentations

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May 14    Case studies in ethics and decision making

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May 21    Final Exam

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Course Assessment:

Essays (3)	30%
Final Paper	20%
Presentations	5%
In-class Writing	5%
Classroom Discussion/Work	20%
Final Exam	20%

Essays: (maximum 10 points each)

10 – exceeds standards  
 8-9 – meets standards  
 6-7 – below standards  
 0-5 – well below standards

Final Paper and Final Exam: (maximum 20 points each)

20 – exceeds standards  
 17-19 – meets standards  
 14-16 – below standards  
 0-13 – well below standards

Presentation: (maximum 5 points)

5 – exceeds standards  
 4 – meets standards  
 3 – below standards  
 0-2 – well below standards

In-class Writing (maximum 5 points)

5 – submits all in-class writing exercises; maximum effort applied (e.g., substantial length, answers question, etc.)

4 – misses a maximum of one or two in-class writing exercises; maximum effort applied (e.g., substantial length, answers question, etc.)

0-3 – misses more than two in-class writing exercises; too brief in answer; does not answer question

Classwork/Participation Grade (maximum 20 points)

20 points = no missed classes; class punctuality; active participation in group work; substantial comments or attempts 2-3 times every class; appropriate class etiquette (no cell phones ringing, respectful when others are talking, etc.)

18-19 points = no more than one missed class; class punctuality; substantial attempts at comments every class; appropriate class etiquette (no cell phones ringing, respectful when others are talking, etc.)

15-17 points = no more than two absences; occasional lateness or leaving early; substantial comments every other class; appropriate class etiquette (no cell phones ringing, respectful when others are talking, etc.)

14 points or less = excessive lateness; poor engagement in group work; rarely (or never) participates in class.