Instructor: Janet R. DeSimone  
E-mail: janet.desimone@lehman.cuny.edu  
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)  

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion of ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Decision-making models and theories</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Lincoln’s Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 15</td>
<td>CLASS MEETS (follows a Monday schedule)</td>
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<td>Sophie’s Choice</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment:</strong></td>
<td>Submit Essay #1 (two pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>NO CLASS – President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 21</td>
<td>CLASS MEETS (follows a Monday schedule)</td>
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<td>Unfaithful</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td><em>The Crucible</em> (A. Miller)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment:</strong></td>
<td>Submit Essay #2 (two-three pages)</td>
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<td>Submit Final Paper Topic (bring book to class)</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>12 Angry Men</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Hotel Rwanda</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>Paradise Now</td>
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March 26  
*The Kite Runner* (K. Hosseini)

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

April 2  
NO CLASS – Spring Recess

April 9  
NO CLASS – Spring Recess

April 16  
A Simple Plan

April 23  
House of Sand and Fog

April 30  
Student Presentations

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

May 7  
Student Presentations

May 14  
Case studies in ethics and decision making

May 21  
Final Exam

**Course Assessment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Writing</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Discussion/Work</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.