WELCOME!!! I hope you are looking forward to this class.

I know you are busy and want to take classes that will help you in your work and in your life outside of work. I hope - and believe - this class will fit the bill by giving you some practical ways to think about challenges you face every day. (I know many of you don’t think Philosophy is practical [neither does my wife], but... well, just give it a chance!)

For the first class (and every class):
For each class, there are four assigned readings. The class is divided into groups with each Group having four (or as close as we can come) members.

Each member of the group will be the leader for one assignment for each class. I will assign the members of the groups.

For the first class, you are to read:

- Aristotle’s *Ethics* [Books One and Two only]
- Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus* and *Principle Doctrines*
- Epictetus, *Enchiridion*

BEFORE class, the Leader for each assignment - designated "Leader A, B, C, or D" – must post a one-page (single-spaced) outline of the material contained in the assignment – plus a few (3-4) discussion questions for their group. (Group Leader assignments will appear on Blackboard a week before class.)

Outlines MUST be posted on-time (at least three days before class meets) on Blackboard under “Post Outlines Here.” Outlines may be bullets, numbers, traditional outline format or even paragraphs. It is the responsibility of each member of the group to read the outlines for each of the readings.

There are generally four readings per day. During class, each group will meet to discuss the day’s assignments with each member taking the lead for one of the assignments. It is the Leader’s responsibility to (ruthlessly) keep the group on task.
At some point, I will likely ask the class to come together for a discussion with each leader reporting to the entire class on the main points discussed or issues raised. Also, please pay attention to current events: politics, the arts, business, religion, medicine (of course), and the Culture in general. Watch or listen to a good, balanced news source daily. While this is not a current events class, you will find connections - if you pay attention.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Most of the reading assignments are available on-line and from links on Black Board. (Good anthologies are also available from Hackett and other publishers that contain most or all of the readings.) It's important that you do all the readings so you can discuss (and question) the main concepts. It's true, you could spend days or weeks plumbing the depths of any one of these works. That's not the goal. The goal is that you become familiar with philosophical issues and possible solutions so you can apply them to your life.

See below for the list of texts. Because this is a short course, pre-work and preparation are especially important. I also put the information on Blackboard under “Textbooks.”

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books 1 and 2
Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus* and *Principle Doctrines*
Epictetus, *Enchiridion*
Plato, *The Republic*
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Question II, Third Article
Koppel, Speech at Duke University
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapter XIII (Reading #6)
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, First Section
Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto* and Alienation of Labor
J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*

**NOTE:** The readings are substantial. However, please remember that you will not have to spend time studying for quizzes, tests, or a final exam. The tradeoff depends on you: Do the reading, prepare and review the posts, and participate in the group and class discussions. [We can change to tests if class preparation does not meet expectations.]
Please see the Syllabus for detailed information.