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In this paper we apply the classical control theory to a fractional diffusion equation in a bounded domain. The fractional time derivative is considered in Riemann-Liouville sense. We first study the existence and the uniqueness of the solution of the fractional diffusion equation in a Hilbert space. Then we show that the considered optimal control problem has a unique solution. Interpreting the Euler-Lagrange first order optimality condition with an adjoint problem defined by means of right fractional caputo derivative , we obtain an optimality system for the optimal control. (Received September 21, 2010)