FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (LECTURES)
Spring 2011, MW 2:00-3:15, MW 5:30-6:45, TTH 3:30-4:45, CI 113

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: Stefan Sencerz, Ph.D.
Office: Faculty Center 261; phone 825-2392; hours: MW 3:15-5:00, T 4:45-5:30 and BA.
E-mail: stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu; Course web-site: http://ethics.tamucc.edu [ no “www”].
Instructor’s web-site: http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~sencerz/stefan.htm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to contemporary ethical theories and their
application to practical issues. After several weeks of discussion ethical theory and critical reasoning, the
class will divide into smaller groups and investigate and evaluate various practical issues, such as the
morality of euthanasia, animal rights and social and environmental responsibilities of professionals.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students taking the course will be expected to: 1) demonstrate
(on test questions) an understanding of a variety of ethical theories and principles; 2) apply those theories
and principles to professional ethics issues, in essays, papers, and case study analyses; 3) develop their
reasoning skills, and demonstrate that development on test questions; 4) construct and evaluate ethical
arguments in papers and essays.

Additional readings will be provided on the web, and/or distributed in class as handouts. Please remember
that outlines and handouts do not cover all of the material on which you may be tested. Merely memorizing
the handouts will not enable you to pass the course.

COURSE WEBSITE is http://philosophy.tamucc.edu/ (Please, notice that there is no “www” in the address.
There you will find course notes, announcements, and readings other than those from our text book. Please,
check this web site regularly.

COURSE ORGANIZATION: Class meetings will be divided into two types: (1) lectures and (2)
discussion section meetings. The lectures will be given by Stefan Sencerz, Ph. D., in CI 113 and will follow
the weekly schedule listed below. They will be concerned with general philosophical and ethical issues
related to professional activity. Starting in March, immediately after the Spring break, the large lectures
will end and students will meet in smaller groups with a recitation leader to investigate and discuss applied
ethical issues. All tests are in the rooms where your section meets.

The following sections meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:00
101, Catherine Albert, CCH 116, recommended for liberal arts, 438-1608; Catherine.Albert@tamucc.edu
103, Lois Huff, CI 112, recommended for business; lois.huff@tamucc.edu
103, Don Berkich, CI 122, science and technology/nursing, Donald.berkich@tamucc.edu
104, Candy Skelton, BH 126, education, candy.skelton@tamucc.edu
105, Stefan Sencerz, CCH 104, liberal arts, stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu
106, Brittany Bloomberg, CI 106, science and technology/nursing, brittany.bloomberg@tamucc.edu
107, James Rhyne, CI 109, business, James.rhyne@tamucc.edu
108, Gabby Ahmdia, CI 102, science and technology, Gabriella.ahmdia@tamucc.edu
The following sections meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30
111, Smith Joyce, CI CI112, liberal arts, joyce.smith@tamucc.edu
112, James Rhyne, CCH 116, business, James.rhyne@tamucc.edu
113, Gilda Ramirez, CCH 104, education, office: FC-204A, 825-6062, gilda.ramirez@tamucc.edu
114, Maureen Trnka, CCH 114, science and technology, nursing, maureen.trnka@tamucc.edu
115, Steven Schwerin, BH 126, Liberal Arts; office: FC-253; 825-2585; steven.schwerin@tamucc.edu

The following sections meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 - 4:45
121, Max Gouverne, CCH 104, science and technology, nursing max.gouverne@tamucc.edu
122, Catherine Albert, BH 234, liberal arts, 438-1608; catherine.albert@tamucc.edu
123, Jenna Moore, CCH 116, science and technology, nursing, jenna.moore@tamucc.edu
124, Lois Huff, CI 122, business; lois.huff@tamucc.edu
125, Tracey Calley, BH 126, education, tracy.calley@tamucc.edu
126, Stefan Sencerz, CCH 114, liberal arts; 825-2392; stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Official class roll for the main lecture will not be taken. However all materials discussed in the lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for test and exam questions. Students are therefore expected to attend all lectures and keep up with assigned readings. In general, if you don’t attend class or don’t read required texts, don’t expect to pass.

MAKE UP TESTS & INCOMPLETES: Students who miss a test for a good reason (e.g. medical) will have a chance to take a make-up test during the week after the original test, at a time arranged with the instructor. Discussion section leaders will determine policies governing late work on discussion section assignments. An incomplete for the course is possible only in cases where course work is nearly complete, and the student has a legitimate reason for not completing the course work by the end of the semester.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: First test (20% of your overall grade); second test (20%); final test (10%); discussion section assignments to be determined by the section leaders (totaling 50% of your overall grade). Many of the above assignments will involve material covered only in the lectures, so lecture attendance is likely to have a significant impact on students grades. All grades will be assigned on the standard scale: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, 59% and below=F. Each student’s assignments will be graded by her/his discussion section instructor.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: As a student at TAMU-CC, you are bound by the student code of conduct. Cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is grounds for failing the course.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: You are free to ask any question you please about the material. In many cases if you did not understand something, this is because it was not explained clearly to you, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request clarification. You are also free to argue for any ethical position you find compelling, as long as you provide reasons for your point of view. It is inevitable that during discussions individual points of view will differ. When they do, our reaction will always be to patiently listen to the reasons offered for a particular ethical conclusion and cooperatively evaluate those reasons.
E-ETIQUETTE: Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc. If your cell phone rings (or sings) during class, I will stop the lecture and answer it for you. If you feel the urge to text message or make a call, please leave the classroom and do not return (until next class). The lectures are for lecturing and discussion. Any student who disrupts a lecture by using a personal electronic device will be asked to leave.

ADVISEMENT: Professional academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. In our college the undergraduate advisor is Natasha Crawford (825-3466; Natasha.crawford@tamucc.edu). The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley (825-5896; Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816, office in Driftwood 101.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.
1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

THE FINE PRINT: For all matters concerning course withdrawal, appeal of grades, academic misconduct, etc, students are strongly advised to consult the rules outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Handbook and on the web at: http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/.
IMPORTANT DATES
January 12, W, Classes begin
January 20, R, last day to register or add a class
February 9, the first test (in sections)
March 9, the second test (in sections)
March 14-18, Monday-Friday, Spring Break
May 3, Tuesday, Last day of classes
May 04, W, Reading Day
May 04, R, May 5, 1:45-4:15 -- Final Exam for classes TR 3:30-4:45
May 04, W, May 11, 1:45-4:15 -- Final Exam for classes MW 2-3:15
May 04, W, May 11, 4:30-7:00 -- Final Exam for classes MW 5:30-6:45
May 14, Sat, Spring Commencement

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE: This schedule is provisional and subject to change. For the sake of simplicity, the first date of each week refers to Mondays; T-R students, please adjust accordingly. All readings refer to The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 6th ed.

January 12 (W): Classes begin: organization and general introduction

WEEK 1 01/17-20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
01/18, T, What is Morality? Principles of logical reasoning
   Readings: Rachels, chapter 1.

WEEK 2, 01/24-27, What is Morality? (continued)

WEEK 3, 01/31-02/03, Cultural Relativism, Ethical Egoism
   Readings: Chapters 2, 5.

WEEK 4, 02/07-10, General review and summary
   February 09 or 10, Test #1 (20%), in sections

WEEK 5, 02/14-16, Debate about utilitarianism
   Readings: Chapters 7-8

WEEK 6, 02/21-24, Debate about Deontology and Kantian Ethics of respect for persons
   Readings: Chapters 8-10.

WEEK 7, 02/28-03/03, Ethics and Religion; Theories of Moral Rights
   Reading, Chapter 4

WEEK 8, 03/07-03/10, General Review and Summary
   March 09 or 10, Test #2 (20%) in sections

March 14-18 Spring Break

After the Spring break, all meetings will take in section meetings rooms. Detailed schedules will be provided by section leaders.