FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
Philosophy 3340.003
Summer I 2012   June 4 - July 6
Time: MTWR 12:00-1:55   Location: CI-106

Prof. Glenn Tiller
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Course Description
This course is an introduction to contemporary ethical theories and their application to a number of practical issues. We will begin with an overview of ethics and discuss the nature of critical reasoning. Next we will examine several major ethical theories. These theories will provide us with a critical basis for exploring a number of current ethical problems and debates.

Student Learning Outcomes
Successful completion of the course will provide you with (1) knowledge of the history of ethics, (2) an improved set of skills for critical reasoning, (3) an improved set of skills for evaluating and justifying actions, (4) a deeper understanding of contemporary ethical issues. The instructors also hope that you will strengthen your interest in ethical thought and issues, continue thinking about ethical values, and continue to develop your own views on ethical issues.

Required Texts
The Elements of Moral Philosophy 7th edition, eds. James and Stuart Rachels, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011. All other readings will either be posted online or distributed in class.

Course Website and Schedule of Readings
A daily schedule of readings for this class is found by following the links from my home page located under the “Faculty” section on the Philosophy Department’s website at: http://philosophy.tamucc.edu. The password for our course site is “island”.

Tests and Assignments
Specific instructions for assignments will be given in class. The following is a brief description of course requirements and relevant dates.

1. Two statements of your ethical views.
Each statement should be 250-500 words. The first statement is due June 5. The second statement is due July 5. Note: in order to get marks for this assignment both statements must be submitted. Worth 5% of your mark.

2. Ten short reading quizzes.
   To be held at the start of class. Quizzes will be answerable in a word, phrase, or sentence. Worth 20% of your mark.

3. Test 1 - June 14.
   General test consisting of some combination of true/false, multiple choice, short and long answer questions. It will cover all materials up to and including June 13. Worth 15% of your mark.

4. Test 2 - June 28.
   General test consisting of some combination of true/false, multiple choice, short and long answer questions. It will cover all materials up to and including June 27. Worth 25% of your mark.

5. Exam - July 5.
   Comprehensive examination covering all materials discussed during the term. Worth 35% of your mark.

Some Advice
The material we’ll be studying is difficult. Be prepared to work hard. In order to get a good grade in the class, I recommend the following. 1. Do the readings more than once. 2. Don’t miss lectures. 3. Raise questions in class and/or drop by my office for a chat if you’re having difficulties. 4. Review the material regularly.

Attendance and Missed Test Policy
All materials discussed in lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for quiz and test questions. Students are therefore expected to attend all lectures and keep up with assigned readings. If you don’t attend class, don’t expect to pass. Students unable to write a test for a good (e.g. medical) reason must provide a doctor’s note. Make-up tests will be written at an arranged time under my supervision.

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 before entering the classroom.* If your cell phone rings during class, I will stop the lecture. If you feel the urge to text message or make a call, please leave the classroom and do not return (until next class). Classroom time is for lecturing and discussion. Any student who disrupts a lecture by using a personal electronic device will be asked to leave.

Advisement
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. For the College of Liberal Arts the undergraduate advisor is Linda Miller (825-3466; linda.miller@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.

Notice to Students with Disabilities
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

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 other 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/.

Schedule of Topics and Readings
*Readings and schedule subject to change
EMP = *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 7th edition*

Week 1 (June 4-June 7): What is Morality? & Logical Reasoning
Readings: EMP chpt. 1

Week 2 (June 11-14): Subjectivism, Ethics & Religion, Egoism
June 14
Readings: EMP chpts. 2-4
Test 1

Week 3 (June 18-21): Social Contract Theory & Utilitarianism
Readings: EMP chpts 6-8
Week 4 (June 25-28)  Utilitarianism & Kantianism  Test 2
June 30
Readings: EMP chpts 8-10

Week 5 (July 2-5)  Utilitarianism & Kantianism
Readings: EMP chpts 8-10

FINAL EXAM July 5