FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
SPRING 2013

TIME: T & R 9:30-10:45    LOCATION: CI 113

Prof. Glenn Tiller
Office: Faculty Center Room 263
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-3:00 and by appointment.
Phone: 825-6008
Email: glenn.tiller@tamucc.edu

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. After several weeks of discussing ethical theory and
critical reasoning, the class will divide into smaller groups and investigate and evaluate
various practical ethical issues.

Course Organization
Class meetings are divided into two types: (1) lectures and (2) discussion section
meetings. The lectures will be given by Prof. Glenn Tiller in CI 113 and will follow
the weekly schedule listed below. Just before spring break and continuing until the end
of term, the large lectures will end and students will meet in smaller groups with a
recitation leader to investigate and discuss applied ethical issues.

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.

Required Texts

Course Website
The address for the course website is: http://philosophy.tamucc.edu/ (Note that there is no “www” in the address). There you will find course notes, announcements, and readings other than those from our text. You are encouraged to check the website regularly.

Course Schedule
*Unless otherwise noted, all readings refer to The Elements of Moral Philosophy 7th edition. This course schedule is provisional and subject to change.

January
24 Introduction and Course Mechanics
29 What Is Morality? (chpt. 1) & The Challenge of Cultural Relativism (chpt. 2)
31 Subjectivism in Ethics (chpt. 3)

February
5 Does Morality Depend on Religion? (chpt. 4)
7 Ethical Egoism (chpt. 5); The Idea of a Social Contract (chpt. 6)
12 GENERAL REVIEW
14 TEST #1 (written in your recitation room)
19 The Utilitarian Approach (chpt. 7)
21 The Debate Over Utilitarianism (chpt. 8)
26 Are There Absolute Moral Rules? (chpt. 9)
28 Kant and Respect for Persons (chpt. 10); What Would a Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like? (chpt. 13)

March
GENERAL REVIEW

TEST #2 (written in your recitation room)

Discussion Section Meetings

April

2 Discussion Section Meetings
4 Discussion Section Meetings
9 Discussion Section Meetings
11 Discussion Section Meetings
16 Discussion Section Meetings
18 Discussion Section Meetings
23 Discussion Section Meetings
25 Discussion Section Meetings
30 Discussion Section Meetings

MAY

2 Discussion Section Meetings
7 Discussion Section Meetings

FINAL EXAM (written in your recitation room; date and time TBA)

Section Leaders
The following list indicates the section numbers, the main focus of each section, discussion section leaders, contact information, and the rooms where the sections will meet.
Section: 3340.111
Recommended for Liberal Arts
Section Leader: Catherine Albert
Email: Catherine.Albert@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: CI 102

Section: 3340.112
Recommended for Business
Section Leader: Lois Huff
Email: Lois.Huff@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: CS 112

Section: 3340.113
Recommended for Education
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CS 111

Section: 3340.114
Recommended for Science and Engineering; Nursing
Section Leader: Dr. Andy Piker
Email: andrew.piker@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: IH 158

continued....

Section: 3340.115
Recommended for Science and Technology; Nursing
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: BH 126

Section: 3340.116
Recommended for Business
Section Leader: James Rhyne
Email: James.Rhyne@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: IH 268

Section: 3340.117
Recommended for Liberal Arts
Section Leader: Dr. Glenn Tiller  
Email: glenn.tiller@tamucc.edu  
Meeting Room: BH 235

**Graded Assignments**
1. Test 1. 10% of overall grade. 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 February 2 and will take the entire period to write.

2. Test 2. 20% of overall grade. 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 March 1 and will take the entire period to write.

3. Final Exam. Worth 20% of final mark. The exam will involve a critical analysis of a given case study in ethics.

4. Recitation Section. Worth 50% of final mark. Assignment will vary with individual recitation sections. Typical assignments include research projects, group presentations, and written assignments.

**Grading Scale**
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.

**Missed Test Policy**
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.

**Attendance**
All material discussed in lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for quiz and test questions: *and some material will be discussed only in lecture*. 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.*

**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 all the readings more than once. (2) Don’t miss lectures. (3) Raise questions in class or drop by my office for a chat if you’re having difficulties. (4) Review the material regularly. (5) Take advantage of the supplemental instruction.

**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**
*Turn off all cell phones before entering the classroom.* If your cell phone rings during class, I will stop the lecture. 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.

Important Dates
January 21, Monday                Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 23, Wednesday             Classes begin
January 30, Thursday
Last day to register or add a class

March 11-15, Monday-Friday
Spring Break

April 12, Friday
Last day to drop a class

May 6, Monday
Last day to withdraw from the University

May 7, Tuesday
Last day of classes

May 8, Wednesday
Last day to apply for August 2013 graduation

May 9-10, Thursday-Friday
Reading Day

May 13-15, Monday-Wednesday
Final examinations

May 16-17, Thursday-Friday
Grading days

May 18, Saturday
Spring Commencement

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/.