Philosophy 3340.003
Foundations of Professional Ethics (Lecture Section)
Fall 2012
TR 3:30-4:45
CI 113

Instructor
Andy Piker
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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30; TR 11:00-12:00; and by appointment

Course Description
We will begin by studying the nature of philosophical approaches to ethics, and to ethical argumentation. We will then examine and discuss a variety of ethical theories and principles; and we will put this background to use in an exploration of ethical problems that arise in professional life.

Course Organization
Class meetings will be divided into two types: lectures and recitation (discussion) section meetings. The first half of the semester (through October 9) will be devoted to lecture meetings. All of the lectures will be given by Andy Piker in CI 113. They will be concerned with general philosophical and ethical issues related to professional activity. In the second half of the semester students will meet in smaller recitation sections focusing on issues that arise in specific areas of professional life. **All of your tests/exams will be given in the room in which your recitation section meets, not in the lecture room.**

Recitation Section Information
Students must be enrolled in and are expected to attend (during the second half of the semester) one of the following recitation sections:

**PHIL 3340.121**
College of Science and Engineering/College of Nursing
Section Leader: Maureen Trnka
Email: maureen.trnka@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: EN 107

**PHIL 3340.122**
College of Liberal Arts
Section Leader: Stefan Sencerz
E-mail: stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: IH 156
PHIL 3340.123
College of Science and Engineering/College of Nursing
Section Leader: Elizabeth (Susan) Shanks
Email: susan.shanks@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: EN 108

PHIL 3340.124
College of Business
Section Leader: James Rhyne
Email: james.rhyne@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: OCNR 131

PHIL 3340.125
College of Education
Section Leader: Tracy Calley
Email: tracy.calley@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: CS 112

PHIL 3340.126
College of Liberal Arts
Section Leader: Catherine Albert
Email: catherine.albert@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: CS 111

PHIL 3340.127
College of Liberal Arts
Section Leader: Joyce Smith
Email: jesmith_2001@yahoo.com
Meeting Room: CI 107

PHIL 3340.128
College of Science and Engineering/College of Nursing
Section Leader: Andy Piker
Email: andrew.piker@tamucc.edu
Meeting Room: OCNR 130

Student Learning Outcomes
Students taking the course will be expected to:
1) demonstrate an understanding of a variety of ethical theories and principles
2) apply those theories and principles to professional ethics issues
3) develop their reasoning skills
4) construct and evaluate ethical arguments
**Graded Assignments**

*First lecture material test* (15% of overall grade); the test will consist of a combination of short answer (e.g., true/false, multiple choice) and longer answer (e.g., definitions, brief explanations, essay) questions. It will be based upon material covered prior to September 18. Students will have the entire September 18 class period to complete the test.

*Second lecture material test* (25% of overall grade); the test will consist of a combination of short answer (e.g., true/false, multiple choice) and longer answer (e.g., definitions, brief explanations, essay) questions. It will be based upon material covered prior to October 11 (including material from the first test). Students will have the entire October 11 class period to complete the test.

*Final exam* (10% of overall grade); the test will consist of an essay question, requiring application of ethical theories and principles covered in the lectures to an ethics case study. Students will have a 150 minute period to complete the exam.

*Recitation section assignments* (50% of overall grade); assignments will vary from section to section. Typical assignments include group projects, class presentations, and case study analyses.

**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 recitation section instructor.

**Lecture Attendance**
The lecture material tests and the final exam will include some material covered only in the lectures, so lecture attendance is likely to have a significant impact on students’ grades.

**Attendance Policies for Sections**
Recitation section leaders will determine the attendance policies for their sections.

**Make-up Tests and Incompletes**
Students who miss a lecture material test for a good (e.g., medical) reason must contact me within a week of the test to set up a make-up test. Recitation section leaders will determine policies governing late work on recitation 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.

**Class Discussion**
All students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussion, in both the lecture and recitation section meetings. The teachers as well as the students will learn more if you do. You are also encouraged to come by my office to ask questions or discuss issues.
Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of work as one’s own, that was in fact produced by another author (e.g., the submission of a paper as one’s own work, when it was written by someone else; or the submission of a portion of a paper written by another author, without citing the source of the material). University policy strictly prohibits plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism will be determined by the instructor responsible for the grading of the assignment in question.

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

Readings
The only book required for the lecture meetings is The Elements of Moral Philosophy 7th edition, James and Stuart Rachels, New York: McGraw-Hill, 2012. All other readings for the lectures will either be posted on the course website or distributed in class. Recitation section leaders may assign additional readings for their sections.

E-etiquette
Please turn off all cell phones before entering the classroom. 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/.

**Course Schedule**
*Recitation section meetings have been explicitly indicated; all other meetings are lecture meetings. All chapters referred to are in the Rachels text.*

**August**
23  **Orientation**

**Part I: Introduction to Philosophical Ethics**
  *What is Morality? What is Philosophical Ethics?* (Chapter 1)

28  *What is Morality/Philosophical Ethics, continued* (Chapter 1)
30  *Logic and Ethical Arguments (online reading)*
September
4 Part II: Ethical Theories and Principles
   Social Contract Theory and Justice (Chapter 6)
6 Social Contract Theory and Justice, continued (online reading)
11 Value Theory and Utilitarianism (online reading and Chapter 7)
13 Value Theory and Utilitarianism, continued (Chapter 7 and Chapter 8)
18 First Lecture Material Test
20 Value Theory and Utilitarianism, continued (Chapter 8)
25 Kantian Ethics and Rights (Chapter 9)
27 Kantian Ethics and Rights (Chapter 10)

October
2 Kantian Ethics and Rights (online reading)
4 Virtue Theory (Chapter 12)
9 Review (Last Lecture Meeting)
11 Second Lecture Material Test
16 Part III: Ethical Issues in Professional Life
   Recitation Section Meetings
18 Recitation Section Meetings
23 Recitation Section Meetings
25 Recitation Section Meetings
30 Recitation Section Meetings

November
1 Recitation Section Meetings
6 Recitation Section Meetings
8 Recitation Section Meetings
13 Recitation Section Meetings
15 Recitation Section Meetings
20 Recitation Section Meetings
22 Thanksgiving
27 Recitation Section Meetings
Recitation Section Meetings

December 4  Recitation Section Meetings

Final Exam: 1:45-4:15, Tuesday, December 11