Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

PHIL 3340.004

Professional Ethics

MTWR 2:00-3:55
CI-126

http://philosophy.tamucc.edu

Professor:

Don Berkich, Ph.D.

Office: FC-283
Hours: MTWR 10:00 - 11:55, and by appointment
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Home#: 944-2756 (texts strongly preferred)
Email: don.berkich@tamucc.edu
Web: http://philosophy.tamucc.edu/berkich

Course Description:

This is a rigorous introduction to moral normative theory and its application to moral normative analysis and some of the important moral dilemmas typically encountered in professional life.

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.

*A requirement of the University for accreditation purposes and prescribed by administrators to be uniform across all sections of this course, none of which are in fact measurable, endorsed by the professor, or indeed even authored by the professor. Symptomatic of the commodification of higher education, the corporatization of its institutions, and worst of Taylor-esque managerialism. Reduces the study of philosophy—a discipline as rich in jaw-dropping puzzles and intellectual challenges as any—to the meanest variety of rote vocational training. An embarrassing academic fad and an affront to the towering intellects whose investigations we are privileged to pursue this session.

Texts:

Mill, J.S., “Utilitarianism”.
Hobbes, T. "Leviathan".
Moore, G.E., "Principia Ethica".

* Useful but not required--selections from these and other sources will be provided as necessary. Some of these sources are freely
available online through Project Gutenberg or Google Books.

Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>05/16/13</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Fetal Logic</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>05/20/13</td>
<td>Cultural Ethical Relativism and Standards of Evaluation</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Simple Ethical Subjectivism, Emotivism, and Objectivism</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>05/21/13</td>
<td>Divine Command Theory</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Natural Law Theory</td>
<td>Exam 4</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>05/22/13</td>
<td>Utilitarianism I</td>
<td>Exam 5</td>
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<td>Utilitarianism II</td>
<td>Exam 6</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>05/23/13</td>
<td>Deontology</td>
<td>Exam 7</td>
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<td>Contractarianism</td>
<td>Exam 8</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>05/27/13</td>
<td>Summary of Moral Normative Theory</td>
<td>Exam 9</td>
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<td>Principles of Moral Normative Analysis</td>
<td>Exam 10</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>05/28/13</td>
<td>The Nature of Moral Dilemmas</td>
<td>Exam 11</td>
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<td>Paternalism in Professional Practice</td>
<td>Exam 12</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>05/29/13</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Medicine</td>
<td>Exam 13</td>
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<td>Moral Dilemmas in Business</td>
<td>Exam 14</td>
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<td>05/30/13</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Science</td>
<td>Exam 15</td>
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<td>Final Examination Review Session</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>05/31/13</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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* Tentative subject to adjustments in class pacing.

Requirements:

Term Paper*

Students will write a carefully researched, analytically sophisticated term paper of not less than 12 pages and not more than 15 pages, excluding bibliography. Due Friday, 7/1, term paper topics will be selected from a set of specific moral cases determined by the professor. Rough drafts of not less than 12 pages, due Thursday, 6/9, will be exchanged for written peer review of not less than 5 pages, due Thursday 6/16.

*Note that because of the large number of students enrolled in the course, the term paper assignment ordinarily required during the regular semesters must be dropped, regrettably, in favor of daily examinations.

Daily Examinations

Every lecture will begin with an objective examination of not more than 30 minutes on the material covered in the previous lecture. It will thus be extremely important for students to arrive on-time for class.

Final Examination

There will be a single, comprehensive objective final examination on Friday, 5/31.

Policies:
The professor assumes that students enrolled in this course are sincere student-scholars. That is, the professor shall treat them with the respect due scholars, and, as scholars, they shall do their best to live up to the standards of scholars. To wit,

**Preparation:**

Scholars carefully read assignments in advance of class, take notes on their reading, explore specific issues in discussion with fellow scholars, and follow-up class by re-reading portions of the required readings and exploring suggested readings.

**Participation:**

Scholars are eager to respectfully, openly, and critically discuss arguments and issues raised by the readings. Scholars are adept at following a line of reasoning wherever it may lead. Most importantly, scholars welcome the insights and criticisms of their peers: A scholar understands that it is possible to entertain a proposition without believing it, just as it is possible to present an argument without personally endorsing the argument. Scholars enjoy vigorous deliberations and are always careful to treat fellow scholars with patience and good humor.

**Assignments:**

Scholars fully immerse themselves in assignments and never assume that an assignment is only legitimate if it will be covered on a test. Scholars are naturally curious and see every assignment as an opportunity to explore new issues, see old issues in new light, and hone their growing skills.

**Cheating:**

Scholars are very careful to give proper credit and maintain the highest standards of scholarly conduct. Thus, subject to university guidelines, any instance of cheating (including plagiarism) will be vigorously prosecuted.

**Attendance:**

Scholars always attend class barring serious injury, illness, or disaster. Scholars view class-time as rare and valuable for the thought it evokes and the opportunities it presents. Scholars arrive early for class and never leave class early without obtaining prior approval from the professor.

**Grading Formula:**

There are 1000 points possible as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Examinations</td>
<td>50 points each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>250 points</td>
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</table>

Total Points =

Total of the Daily Examinations + Final Examination

Course Grade is determined by the following scale:

A   900-1000
Additional Notes:

Any change in the above will be announced in class. No change will be made which would be detrimental to the student’s grade.

This syllabus is not authoritative. That is, the syllabus on the course website supersedes this syllabus wherever they differ. The professor and the students are only responsible for the syllabus as it appears in its entirety on the course website, including the schedule of topics and readings.

Any student missing a due date must provide a documented, acceptable reason according to university guidelines. Students with a proper excuse for missing a due date will be given a reasonable extension.

Students without a proper excuse for missing a due date will lose 10 points per day after the due date.

*Required University Note 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.

*Required College of Liberal Arts Note on Academic Advising:* The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

*Required University Note on the 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. 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.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

By accepting this syllabus the student indicates that the syllabus has been read, all requirements are understood, and all policies are acknowledged.