FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS  
SPRING 2014  

COURSE: PHIL 3340       SECTION: 001  
TIME: M 5:30-6:45      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
A link for the course website can be found on the Department of Philosophy webpage: 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
22    Introduction and Course Mechanics
27    What Is Morality? (chpt. 1) & The Challenge of Cultural Relativism (chpt. 2)
29    Subjectivism in Ethics (chpt. 3)

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

March
3     GENERAL REVIEW
TEST #2 (written in your recitation room)

Discussion Section Meetings

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Discussion Section Meetings

Discussion Section Meetings

April

2  Discussion Section Meetings

7  Discussion Section Meetings

9  Discussion Section Meetings

10 Discussion Section Meetings

14 Discussion Section Meetings

16 Discussion Section Meetings

21 Discussion Section Meetings

23 Discussion Section Meetings

28 Discussion Section Meetings

29 Discussion Section Meetings

MAY

5  Discussion Section Meetings

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

Section Leaders
The following list indicates the section numbers and the main focus of each section.

Section: 3340.101
Recommended for Liberal Arts
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 122

Section: 3340.102
Recommended for Business
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 112

Section: 3340.103
Recommended for Science and Engineering; Nursing
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 109

Section: 3340.104
Recommended for Education
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 106
continued...

Section: 3340.105
Recommended for Liberal Arts
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 102

Section: 3340.106
Recommended for Science and Engineering; Nursing
Section Leader: TBA
Email: TBA
Meeting Room: CI 126

Section: 3340.107
Recommended for Science and Engineering; Nursing
Section Leader: TBA
Email: Maureen. TBA
Meeting Room: CI 107
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 10 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 3 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**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading,
may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Important Dates**

January 20, Monday  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
January 22, Wednesday  
Classes begin  
January 29, Wednesday  
Last day to register or add a class  
March 10-14, Monday-Friday  
Spring Break  
April 11, Friday  
Last day to drop a class  
May 5, Monday  
Last day to withdraw from the University  
May 6, Tuesday  
Last day of classes  
May 7, Wednesday  
Last day to apply for August 2014 graduation  
May 8-9, Thursday-Friday  
Reading Day  
May 12-14, Monday-Wednesday  
Final examinations  
May 15-16, Thursday-Friday  
Grading days  
May 17, Saturday  
Spring Commencement  
May 23, Friday  
Faculty End Date

**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/.