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 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 homepage 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 4. The second statement is due July 3. 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 12.
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.**

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 3.
Comprehensive examination covering all materials discussed during the term. **Worth 35% of your mark.**

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

*Readings and schedule subject to change*

EMP = *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 7th edition*

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<tr>
<th>Week 1 (June 2-June 5):</th>
<th>What is Morality? &amp; Cultural Relativism</th>
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<td>Readings: EMP chpt. 1-2</td>
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<th>Week 2 (June 9-12):</th>
<th>Subjectivism, Ethics &amp; Religion, Egoism</th>
<th><strong>Test 1 June 12</strong></th>
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<td>Readings: EMP chpts. 3-5</td>
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<th>Week 3 (June 16-19):</th>
<th>Social Contract Theory &amp; Utilitarianism</th>
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<td>Readings: EMP chpts 6-7</td>
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<th>Week 4 (June 23-26)</th>
<th>Utilitarianism &amp; Kantianism</th>
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<td>Readings: EMP chpts 8-10</td>
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<th>Week 5 (June 30-July 3)</th>
<th>Utilitarianism &amp; Kantianism</th>
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<td>Readings: EMP chpts 8-10, 13</td>
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**FINAL EXAM**

| July 3 |

**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.
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.

Academic 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. 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

Students with Disabilities and Veterans
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

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.

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/.