PHIL 3340.003
FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS (LECTURE)
Fall 2011, TR 3:30-4:45, CI 113

Instructor information: Stefan Sencerz, Ph.D.
Office: Faculty Center 261; phone 825-2392; hours: MW 3:30-4:30, TR 10:45-11:45, 2:00-3:00 and BA.
E-mail: stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu; Course web-site: http://ethics.tamucc.edu [no “www”].

Course description: This course is an introduction to contemporary ethical theories and their applications to practical issues. We will begin with an overview of ethics, including the nature ethical reasoning and some basic ethical theories. We will apply this basis to explore some current ethical debates; such as the morality of suicide and euthanasia, capital punishment, legalization of recreational drugs, animal rights and social and environmental responsibilities of professionals.

Learning outcomes: Students taking the course will be expected to
1) demonstrate (on test questions) the understanding of ethical theories and principles;
2) apply those theories and principles to professional ethics issues, in essays 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.

Additional readings will be provided on the web site for the course http://ethics.tamucc.edu [W], or distributed in class as handouts [H]. If you miss a class, make sure that you have copies of all additional handouts distributed in the class. Please remember that outlines and handouts do not cover all of the material on which you may be tested, and they do not contain complete accounts of the topics that are covered in lectures and readings. Merely memorizing the handouts will not enable you to pass the course.

Attendance & participation: Official class roll for the main lecture will not be taken. However, all materials discussed in the lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for test and exam questions. Students are therefore expected to attend all class meetings and keep up with assigned readings. In general, if you don’t attend class or don’t read required texts, don’t expect to pass.

Make up tests & incompletes: Students who miss a test for a good (e.g. medical) reason will have a chance to take a make-up test, during a few days after the original test, at a time arranged with the instructor. 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.

Course organization: Class meetings will be divided into two types: (1) lectures and (2) discussion section meetings. The lectures will be given by Stefan Sencerz, Ph. D., in CI 113 and will follow the weekly schedule listed below. They will be concerned with general philosophical and ethical issues and their relations to professional activities. Beginning at XXXX, the large lectures will end and students will meet in smaller groups with a recitation leader to investigate and discuss applied ethical issues. All tests are in the rooms where your section meets.

The following sections meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30-10:45
101 Catherine Albert (Liberal Arts), IH-267; Catherine.Albert@tamucc.edu; txwexer@yahoo.com
102 Lois Huff (Business), OCNR-259; lois.huff@tamucc.edu
103 (Science), OCNR-117
104 Rita Hernandez (Education), CI-128; Rita.Hernandez@tamucc.edu
105 S. Sencerz (Liberal Arts), CI-127; Stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu
106 (Sci), CI-108
107 (Sci), CI-107
108 James Rhyne (Business), CI-126; James.Rhyne@tamucc.edu
MW 5:30-6:45 Recitations
111 Ana Maria Andrei (Lib Arts), CI-126
112 Lois Huff (Business), IH-156, lois.huff@tamucc.edu
113 Gilda Ramirez (Education), CI-112, Gilda.Ramirez@tamucc.edu
114 (Sci), CI-109
115 (Sci), CI-106
116 S. Sencerz (Liberal Arts), BH-201, Stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu

TR 3:30-4:45
121 (Sci), CI-127
122 Steven Schwerin (Liberal Arts), CI-108; Steven.Schwerin@tamucc.edu
123 (Sci), CI-128
124 James Rhyne (Business), EN-108
125 Rita Hernandez (Education), CI-126; Rita.Hernandez@tamucc.edu
126 C. Albert (Liberal Arts), IH-126; Catherine.Albert@tamucc.edu; texwexer@yahoo.com
127 S. Sencerz (Liberal Arts), CI-112, Stefan.sencerz@tamucc.edu
128 (Sci), CI-106

Graded assignments: First test (20% of your overall grade); second test (20%); final test (10%); discussion section assignments to be determined by the section leaders (totaling 50% of your overall grade). Many of the above assignments will involve material covered only in the lectures, so lecture attendance is likely to have a significant impact on students grades. 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.

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty: As a student at TAMU-CC, you are bound by the student code of conduct. Cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is grounds for failing the course.

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 plausible, 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, pagers, etc. If your cell phone rings (or sings) during class, I will stop the lecture and answer it for you. If you feel the urge to text message or make a call, please leave the classroom and do not return (until next class). The lectures are for lecturing and discussion. Any student who disrupts a lecture by using a personal electronic device will be asked to leave.

Advisement: Professional academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. In our college the undergraduate advisor is Natasha Crawford (825-3466; Natasha.crawford@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.

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 contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816, office in Driftwood 101.
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 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/.

Important dates
September 04, W, Classes begin
September 11, W, last day to register or add a class
September 30 or October 01, the first test (in sections)
October 23 or 24, the second test (in sections)
November 15, F, last day to drop a class
November 28-29, RF, Thanksgiving Holidays
December 10, T, last day of classes
December 11, W, Reading Day
December 12-18, Finals
Dec 21, Sat, Fall Commencement

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE: This schedule is provisional and subject to change. For the sake of simplicity, the first date of each week refers to Mondays; T-R students, please adjust accordingly. All readings refer to The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 6th ed.

09/04 (W): Classes begin: organization and general introduction


09/16 What is Morality? (continued)
Cultural Relativism. Readings: Chapter 2
09/23 Ethical Egoism. Readings: Chapters 5.

09/30-10/01 Test #1 (20%), in section

10/7 Debate about utilitarianism
Readings: Chapters 7-8

10/14 Deontology and Kantian Ethics of respect for persons
Readings: Chapters 8-10.

10/21 Ethics and Religion; Readings: Chapter 4

10/23-24, Test #2 (20%) in sections

Beginning at October 23, all meetings will take place in section meetings rooms. Detailed schedules will be provided by section leaders.

THE FINALS (10%)
For MW classes: Monday, December 16, 4:30-7:00
For TR 9:30-10:45: Tuesday, December 17, 8:00-10:30 a.m
For TR, 3:30-4:45: Tuesday, December 17, 1:45-4:15