Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

PHIL 3340.005

Professional Ethics

Summer Session I, 2014
MTWR 2:00 - 3:55
CI-109

http://philosophy.tamucc.edu

Professor:

Don Berkich, Ph.D.

Offices: FC-283 and CCH-262
Hours: MTWR 12:00 - 2:00 and by appointment
Office#: 3976 (do not leave a message, email instead)
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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.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>06/02/14</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Fetal Logic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>06/03/14</td>
<td>Cultural Ethical Relativism and Standards of Evaluation</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>06/04/14</td>
<td>Simple Ethical Subjectivism, Emotivism, and Objectivism</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>06/05/14</td>
<td>Divine Command Theory</td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>06/09/14</td>
<td>Natural Law Theory</td>
<td>Exam 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>06/10/14</td>
<td>Utilitarianism I</td>
<td>Exam 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>06/11/14</td>
<td>Utilitarianism II</td>
<td>Exam 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>06/12/14</td>
<td>Deontology</td>
<td>Exam 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>06/16/14</td>
<td>Contractarianism</td>
<td>Exam 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>06/17/14</td>
<td>Summary of Moral Normative Theory</td>
<td>Exam 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>06/18/14</td>
<td>Principles of Moral Normative Analysis</td>
<td>Exam 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>06/19/14</td>
<td>The Nature of Moral Dilemmas</td>
<td>Exam 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>06/23/14</td>
<td>Paternalism in Professional Practice</td>
<td>Exam 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>06/24/14</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Medicine</td>
<td>Exam 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>06/25/14</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Business</td>
<td>Exam 14</td>
</tr>
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<td>R</td>
<td>06/26/14</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Science</td>
<td>Exam 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>06/30/14</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Engineering</td>
<td>Exam 16</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>07/01/14</td>
<td>Moral Dilemmas in Education</td>
<td>Exam 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>07/02/14</td>
<td>Final Examination Review Session</td>
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<td>R</td>
<td>07/03/14</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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* Tentative subject to adjustments in class pacing.

### Requirements:

#### 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 Thursday, 7/3.

### 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:

- Daily Examinations 50 points each
- Final Examination 250 points

Total Points =

Total of the Best 15 Daily Examinations + Final Examination

Course Grade is determined by the following scale:

- A 900-1000
- B 800 - 899
- C 700 - 799
- D 600 - 699
- F 000 - 599
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.

Please note that 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. This syllabus is provided solely to meet the requirements of the Texas State Legislature and has no bearing whatsoever on how the course will in fact be run.

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 20 points per day after the due date.

Required University Note to 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.

Required University Note on Academic Advising: Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, misinformation, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, somewhat knowledgeable 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

Required College of Liberal Arts Note on the 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.

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