Instructor: T. Toma  
Office: 357B Bay Hall  
Office Hours: by appointment  
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General 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  
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  
While no books will be required for this section, we will make frequent use of online resources. These resources will be posted on Blackboard throughout the term.

Meeting Schedule  
Week of

July 6: Introduction to Ethical Theory  
* Mill and Kant on Right and Wrong

July 13: The Social Contract  
* Locke, Nozick and Rawls on Distributive Justice

July 20: Problems in Applied Ethics  
* Punishment, Preferential Treatment, and Famine Relief

July 27: The Unborn and the Nonhuman  
* Abortion, Animal Rights, and Environmental Ethics

August 3: Review / Final Exam

Key dates to keep in mind:

July 24 (Friday), Last day to drop class
August 04 (Tuesday), Last day to withdraw from the University
August 06 (Thursday), Final Examinations

**Graded Assignments**
The assignments listed below are tentative:

*Short assignments, case studies & class participation: 30% of overall grade*
These assignments will include in-class exercises, homework, and group projects.

*Midterm exam: 20% of overall grade*
Your midterm will consist of several essay questions that you will complete in class.

*Paper Assignment: 20% of overall grade*
You will write on an assigned topic.

*Final exam: 30% of overall grade*
Your final will consist of several essay questions that you will complete in class.

**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.

**Late Assignments and Incompletes**
Assignment deadlines are fairly rigid. Extensions will be granted in only the most extraordinary circumstances, so you should make every effort to meet these deadlines. Students who miss a test or fail to turn in an assignment because of illness or an emergency -- and who can document the same -- will be given a chance to make up the assignment and turn it in during the same or following week, at a time arranged with the instructor. A grade of Incomplete for the course is possible only in cases in which the course work is nearly complete, and the student has a legitimate reason for not completing the course work by the end of the semester.

**E-Etiquette**
Please turn off ALL electronic devices during class.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**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, clla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**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/.