Philosophy 2306.003
Foundations of Professional Ethics
Spring 2016
TR 2-3:15
OCNR 118

Instructor
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Office Hours: MW 10:30-12; TR 11-12; and by appointment

Course Description
We will begin by studying the nature of philosophical approaches to ethics, and to ethical argumentation. We will then examine and discuss a variety of ethical theories and principles; and we will put this background to use in an exploration of ethical problems that arise in professional life.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students taking the course will be expected to:
1) demonstrate an understanding of a variety of ethical theories and principles
2) apply those theories and principles to professional ethics issues
3) develop their reasoning skills
4) construct and evaluate ethical arguments

Graded Assignments
First test (20% of overall grade); the test will consist of a combination of short answer (e.g., true/false, multiple choice) and longer answer (e.g., definitions, brief explanations, essay) questions.

Second test (25% of overall grade); the test will consist of a combination of short answer (e.g., true/false, multiple choice) and longer answer (e.g., definitions, brief explanations, essay) questions.

Final exam (25% of overall grade); the test will consist of a combination of short answer (e.g., true/false, multiple choice) and longer answer (e.g., definitions, brief explanations, essay) questions.

Short Assignments (10% of your overall grade); we will have a number of in-class discussion assignments, which will be done in small groups; they will focus on analysis of specific ethical issues, generally through the use of case studies, and will include a group discussion of the paper progress reports; the paper progress report will also be one of the short assignments; it is a one page written assignment in which you will choose and begin exploring the ethical issue you will discuss more fully in your ethical analysis paper.
Ethical Analysis Paper (20% of overall grade): A paper of at least 3-5 pages involving application of material from the class to the issue addressed in your paper progress report, and a more detailed development of your views and reasoning on the issue.

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 recitation section instructor.

Late Assignments and Incompletes
Students who miss a test or fail to turn in another assignment on time for a good reason (e.g., a significant medical problem) 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. An 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.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of work as one’s own, that was in fact produced by another author (e.g., the submission of a paper as one’s own work, when it was written by someone else; or the submission of a portion of a paper written by another author, without citing the source of the material). University policy strictly prohibits plagiarism. The penalty for plagiarism will be determined by the instructor responsible for the grading of the assignment in question.

Online Information
Hand-outs, study guides, and assignments will be posted on BlackBoard.

Readings
The book required for the lecture meetings is *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 7th or 8th edition, James and Stuart Rachels, New York: McGraw-Hill. All other readings will be distributed in class and posted on BlackBoard.

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 or log onto http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

Disability Services
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 Appeals 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’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/.

**Course Schedule**
All chapters referred to are in the Rachels text. All readings for Part III will be provided on hand-outs; topics for Part III are tentative and subject to change depending on student preferences (we will discuss Part III topics in class).

**January**
21  Orientation
26  What is Morality/Philosophical Ethics, continued (Chapter 1)
28  Logic and Ethical Arguments (hand-out)

**February**
2   Part II: Ethical Theories and Principles
    Social Contract Theory and Justice (Chapter 6)
4   Social Contract Theory and Justice, continued (hand-out)
9   Value Theory and Utilitarianism (hand-out and Chapter 7)
11  First Test
16  Value Theory and Utilitarianism, continued (Chapter 7 and Chapter 8)
18  Value Theory and Utilitarianism, continued (Chapter 8)
23  Kantian Ethics and Rights (Chapter 9)
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*Kantian Ethics and Rights* (Chapter 10)

**March**

1. *Kantian Ethics and Rights* (hand-out)
2. *Second Test*

**8**  
**Part III: Ethical Issues in Professional Life**  
Euthanasia

**10**  
Euthanasia

**15**  
**Spring Break**

**17**  
**Spring Break**

**22**  
Euthanasia

**24**  
**Progress Report Due; Progress Report In-Class Discussion Assignment**

**29**  
Designer Babies

**31**  
Designer Babies

**April**

5. Designer Babies

7. Animals and Ethics

12. Animals and Ethics

14. Animals and Ethics

19. Abortion

21. Abortion

26. Drones and Artificial Intelligence

28. Drones and Artificial Intelligence

**May**

3. Review; *Ethical Analysis Paper Due*

*Final Exam: Tuesday, May 10, 1:45-4:15*