

Introduction to Ethics

IPFW

Fall 2009

Syllabus for: PHIL 111

Office: CM 28

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 AM until noon and by appointment

Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht

Contact information:

The most effective way to reach me is via e-mail. My e-mail address is: caseldij@ipfw.edu. The best way to contact me is through e-mail. If you would like to leave an office voice mail message, dial 481-5441, enter 19059, and then push the # key. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, I will answer all e-mails and phone messages within 48 hours. Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the class. It is always a good idea to contact me *as soon* as you have a concern or question, but please feel free to contact me *anytime* throughout the semester. I look forward to working with you.

Web page: <http://users.ipfw.edu/caseldij>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the nature of moral value and obligation. Topics such as the following will be considered: different conceptions of the good life and standards of right conduct; the relation of nonmoral and moral goodness; determinism, free will, and the problem of moral responsibility; the political and social dimensions of ethics; the principles and methods of moral judgment. Readings will be drawn from both contemporary and classical sources.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

Students who have completed the General Education requirements at IPFW are expected:

1. To be familiar with the important modes of human thought that are the foundations of science, philosophy, art and social behavior.

To possess effective foundation skills:

- a. Read, write, and speak with comprehension, clarity, and precision.
- b. Identify substantive knowledge and disciplinary methods.
- c. Develop information literacy skills.
- d. Reason quantitatively (as means of gaining and creating knowledge and drawing reliable conclusions)

To demonstrate the ability to think critically and to solve problems using the foundation skills:

- a. Evaluate their ideas and the ideas of others based upon disciplined reasoning.
- b. Understand the traditions that have formed one's own and other cultures.
- c. Be able to articulate their ideas in appropriate media.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the problems of ethics. Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Develop an understanding of major ethical theories.
- Develop the ability to relate various general principles of ethics to individual situations.
- Appreciate the complexity and difficulty of ethical problems.
- Develop the ability to identify and analyze problems in ethics, as well as formulate defensible solutions to ethical problems.

CHEATING POLICY:

Please read the departmental policy regarding cheating:
<http://users.ipfw.edu/caseldij/Cheating%20Policies.pdf>

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at www.ipfw.edu/ssd.

WRITING CENTER:

Save time and write better papers for any class through free individual consultations in The Writing Center, Kettler G19. Bring assignments, questions, ideas, and a draft (if you have one). Consultants can help you get started, write more clearly, revise, edit, and cite sources responsibly. Come as you begin a paper and as you revise. Drop-ins are welcome if time is available, but appointments, made online through TutorTrac, receive preference. For TutorTrac, online consulting, and resources to make your writing process easier, go to www.ipfw.edu/casa/writing. Questions? Call 481-5740.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each test, including the final, counts for 20% of your grade. There will be 3 tests and 1 final for a total of 80% of your grade. (100 points each)

Quizzes will count for a total of 8% of your grade. (4 quizzes, 10 points each)

Discussion questions will count for 12% of your grade.

PARTICIPATION:

You will get 2% for each discussion question you answer, for a total of a possible 12%. If participation is *outstanding*, I will consider it in determining borderline grades.

QUIZZES:

The quizzes will be a multiple choice format and you will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz.

TESTS:

The tests (including the final) will be two thirds multiple choice and one third short essay. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be held on Monday, Dec. 14th. You may take it any time between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on that date. You will have 90 minutes to complete the exam.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you miss a test, you must make it up on December 10th. I will have different versions of each test posted on that date for those that miss any of the tests. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you miss the make up date, then you will receive an F on the exam.

GRADING SCALE:

A+, A = 100-94%

A- = 93-90%

B+ = 89-87%

B = 86-84%

B- = 83-80%

C+ = 79-77%

C = 76-74%

C- = 73-70%
D+ = 69 -67%
D = 66 -64%
D- = 63-60%
F = 59 - 0%

COURSE MATERIALS:

Texts

Human Conduct: Problems in Ethics, 3rd edition, John Hospers.

The text for the course is available in the campus bookstore and at the Bookmark.
The text should be brought to class.

ORDER OF ASSIGNED READINGS FOR LECTURES:

It is the *responsibility of the student* to know where we are in the course both in reference to lectures and testing. The course is concerned with the following subjects in the following order, and is grouped according to testing which will occur during the semester.

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS. Please note that this is a new syllabus so these dates may very well change. It will depend how quickly (or how slowly) we get through the material.

Week	Reading
1. 8/24-8/28	Chapter 1, Moral Problems (pages 1 -27)
2. 8/31-9/4	Chapter 1, Moral Problems (relativism pages 27-38)
3. 9/7-9/11	Chapter 2, The Ethics of Self Interest (39-62)
4. 9/14-9/18	Chapter 2, The Ethics of Self Interest (e.e. 62-76)
9/14 – quiz 1	
9/17 – test 1	
5. 9/21-9/25	Chapter 3, The Ethics of Duty (pages 77-87)
5. 9/28-10/2	Chapter 3, The Ethics of Duty (Kantian, 88-111)
6. 10/5-10/9	Chapter 4, The Good (pages 112-136)
7. 10/12-10/16	Chapter 5, the Ethics of Utility (pages 137-164)
10/13 – quiz 2	
10/16 – test 2	
9. 10/19-10/23	Chapter 6, Other Contemporary Views (pages 165-190)

10. 10/27-10/30 Chapter 7, Human Rights (pages 191- 204)
11. 11/2-11/6 Chapter 7, Human Rights, pages 209-238)

11/3 – quiz 3

11/6 – test 3

13. 11/10-11/13 Chapter 8, Animal Ethics (pages 239-260)
14. 11/16-11/25 Chapter 9, Punishment and Responsibility
15. 11/30 – 12/4 Chapter 10, Justice and Equality (pages 319-331)
16. 12/7-12/11 Chapter 10, Justice and Equality (331-355)

12/9 – quiz 4

12/10 – make up day

12/14 – Final Exam