Introduction to Ethics

IPFW
Fall 2006
Syllabus for Philosophy 111-08
MW 7:30 – 8:45 PM
Kettler 242

Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht

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Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does. - William James

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.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance is optional but is highly recommended. Bonus points will be given for regular attendance.
Miss 0-1 classes = 10 bonus points
Miss 2 classes = 5 bonus points
Tests will cover material introduced in class, or presented in the text. Attendance will be considered in determining borderline grades.

READINGS. All assigned readings should be read prior to coming to class. You may be tested on assigned material that is not covered in class.

TESTING DURING THE SEMESTER. There will be 4 tests (including the Final) during the term on a date to be determined during the term. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of when a test is scheduled or rescheduled. Make-up tests will only be given in extreme cases, and at the discretion of the professor. The instructor reserves the right to refuse a make-up test, and reserves the right to penalize the late taking of tests, by reducing the number of points possible to receive on the test even if all questions are answered correctly. As a general rule, the penalty will be 10% per day for each day beyond the day on which the test is scheduled. Any student missing a test must contact the instructor immediately, and must provide a justifiable reason for missing the test in order to be allowed to make it up. Tests will be largely devoted to new material, but may consist of some previously tested material. The student will be informed prior to the test of what material the test will cover. Each test will account for 1/4 of the grade for the course. All tests that will be given will include Scantron forms. Hence the student will need to bring a number two pencil to class on each test date.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam for this class will be on Monday, December 11th from 8-10 PM in Kettler 242.

Class is not scheduled on the following dates:

Monday, September 4th
Monday, October 9th
Wednesday, November 22nd

GRADING SCALE:

90-100 = A = Excellent
80-89 = B = Very good
70-79 = C = Average
60-69 = D = Below average
Below 60 = F = Failure

COURSE MATERIALS:

Texts

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 AND TESTS:

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.

1. Moral Problems (pages 1 -35)
2. The Ethics of Self-Interest (pages 39-70)
3. The Ethics of Duty (pages 77-101) **TEST 1**
4. The Good (pages 112-130)
5. The Ethics of Utility (pages 137-153)
6. Other Contemporary Views (pages 165-181) **TEST 2**
7. Human Rights (pages 191-232)
8. Animal Rights (pages 239-248)
9. Punishment and Responsibility (pages 261-310) **TEST 3**
10. Justice and Equality (pages 319-338)
11. Political Ethics (pages 356-386) **FINAL**