Introduction to Ethics

IPFW
Summer 2007
Syllabus for:
PHIL 111D – 04U
PHIL 11D – 04X
Ethics
Online Course

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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.

WebCT:

I have set this course up into different learning modules. They are broken up into: Week 1, Week 2, Week 3, Week 4, Week 5 and Week 6. There will be PowerPoint files, study guides, discussion questions, assignments and instructions, and so forth in each week’s
individual learning module. Please read everything and complete all assignments in each week’s learning module.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

2 ethics papers (3-5 pages each) 40%
2 tests 40%
Final exam 20%

PARTICIPATION. Discussion questions are optional but highly recommended. Bonus points will be given for regular discussion.
Miss 0 discussion questions = 10 bonus points
Miss 1 discussion question = 5 bonus points
Participation 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.

HOMEWORK. There will be two papers due during the semester. Each paper will account for 20% of your grade.
NOTE: Late homework is subject to a penalty. As a general rule, the penalty will be 10% per day for each day beyond the day on which the homework is due.

TESTING DURING THE SEMESTER. There will be 3 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 20% of the grade for the course.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam for this class will be on June 28th.

Class is not scheduled on the following date:

Monday, May 28th – Memorial Day
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)
4. The Good (pages 112-130) **TEST 1 (Tentative date: Thursday, May 31st)**
5. The Ethics of Utility (pages 137-153)
6. Other Contemporary Views (pages 165-181) **PAPER 1 DUE (Tentative date: Thursday June 7th)**
7. Human Rights (pages 191-232)
8. Animal Rights (pages 239-248) **TEST 2 (Tentative date: Monday, June 18th)**
9. Punishment and Responsibility (pages 261-310)
10. Justice and Equality (pages 319-338) **PAPER 2 DUE (Tentative date: Thursday, June 21st)**
11. Political Ethics (pages 356-386) **FINAL (Date: Thursday, June 28th)**