

# Syllabus

## Course Syllabus

**Academic Dishonesty Policy** **Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, will not be tolerated.** The instructor is not hesitant about **failing** any student suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty. Failure to properly quote and cite sources used in a paper is one of the many forms of academic dishonesty. All materials turned in by students must reflect their own work and not that of any other person.

The simplest guideline is **always cite the sources you read and when you copy-and-paste use quotation marks and indicate your source** (do NOT “paraphrase”!). When writing your papers, remember to answer the specific questions asked. Papers that fail to engage with the course material will be rejected, no matter how well written.

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**Course Description** The study of the concepts of good and bad, right and wrong, has a long history. This course will study the origins and legitimacy of our standards of conduct and character and will discuss modern studies which consider the compelling and unconditional overtones of ethical demands.

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**Course Objectives** Students who complete this course should:

- Come away with an appreciation for the history of the study of ethics.
  - Attain mastery of various ethical frameworks commonly employed today.
  - Improve their ability to work out thoughts clearly in a group discussion.
  - Gain competence at directing a group inquiry.
  - Sharpen their ability to express their thoughts in writing.
  - Become better able to read complex primary and secondary texts.
  - Realize the importance of embodying ethical values in their own lives.
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**Course Texts**

- Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Ethical Life*. Second Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-977352-7.
- Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Fundamentals of Ethics*. Second Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-977355-8.

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**Assessment** Students will be graded on the basis of their work in the follow areas with the grades weighted

by the percentage shown.

## **Reading Response (20%)**

Every week there will be three lessons with reading assignments (see Course Schedule in site sidebar). Each week by Sunday at 11:59pm HST, students should have completed 200 to 400 word reading responses to each of these reading assignments and posted them in the discussion section of the site. Students may respond to one another's responses in addition to responding to the questions of the instructor, but they are expected to do their own reading of the material.

Responses should be written in standard, professional English: use normal casing (NOT ALL CAPS or all lowercase), avoid excessive abbreviation ("u" for "you," "ur" for "your," etc.), and spell correctly ("definitely" not "definatly," distinguish "lose" and "loose," if-then but greater-than, etc.).

## **Summaries (10% each, 20% total)**

Students must write two short summary papers during the course. Summaries should be around two pages long (300 to 600 words). Summaries will be given an overall grade on the basis of mastery of content, style, and grammar/usage. Summaries are due before midnight on **Sunday, April 22** and **Sunday, May 6**.

## **Argumentative Papers (15% each, 30% total)**

Students must write two argumentative papers. Papers should be around 4 to 6 pages (1,000 to 2,000 words). Papers will be given an overall grade on the basis of strength of argument/originality, mastery of content, structure/coherence, style, and grammar/usage. Papers are due by midnight on **Sunday, May 20** and **Sunday, June 3**.

## **Final Paper (20%)**

The final paper will be a culminating paper in which students synthesize all of the material in the course. Students are responsible for creating their own topic for the final paper. Topics should be discussed with the instructor beforehand for approval. Final papers should be around 7 pages (1,800 words) in length. Final papers will be due in class on the last day of the course, **Monday, June 11**.

## **Final Exam (10%)**

To confirm your understanding of the material covered, students are expected to take a final exam at the end of the semester and show a basic knowledge of the terms and arguments mentioned in class. To study for this exam, online practice quizzes will be offered throughout the semester. Please make arrangements to take the final exam by contacting the AEOP office.

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**Lateness** Assignments must be turned in before midnight on the due date. Late reading responses will

**Policy** receive only half-credit upon completion. Failure to turn in a summary or paper on time will result in a five percent penalty per day with a maximum penalty of fifteen percent. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to access the course for any period of time, you must contact the instructor in advance to receive an extension. In general, exceptions to the lateness policy are possible only with a doctor's note detailing serious illness. **In the event of a serious family emergency, please call the instructor and discuss the situation over the phone.**

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**Returns** After being graded, the summaries and papers will be returned to students with comments on **and** the strengths and weakness of the writing. Following the return of the summary or paper, **Revisions** students have one week to revise their papers to have it re-graded. The score recorded in the gradebook will be the average of the initial and final grade a paper receives.

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**Disability Statement** I am happy to accommodate any students with disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to self identify with the Director of Personal Counseling in order to receive accommodations. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive services. Contact the Director of Personal Counseling at (808) 739-4603 or email: <jyasuhar@chaminade.edu>.

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**Course  
Motto**

“I learned in my college days  
that one cannot imagine anything so strange or so little believable  
that it had not been said by one of the philosophers.”

— René Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

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