

FD99
Pnz

PHILOSOPHY 105: ETHICS
TuTh 9:30--10:50
Fall, 1999

Dr. Jim Christiana, SM
735-4880

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I have designed this course as an introduction to some of the major themes and issues found in Western ethical traditions. Throughout the semester, we will focus on (1) *theories of morality*; (2) *applied ethics (morality in practice)*; and (3) *the relationship between ethics and the behavioral sciences*.

II. TEXT:

James Sterba's *Morality in Practice* (5th ed.)
--in addition to this text, several articles will be placed on library reserve.

III. STRUCTURE OF COURSE:

As we begin to explore the realm of applied ethics, the format of the course will change from lecture to small group discussions. Since dialogue and discourse are essential in the philosophical process, they will also constitute part of our philosophical experience together **in an atmosphere of mutual respect**.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

It is expected that students be present on the days that exams are administered and that all assignments be submitted on the dates due. Students are not automatically entitled to make up exams or other forms of extensions. It is always up to the discretion of the instructor to determine if and when makeups or extensions are given and with what grade penalties.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

--three--four exams (approximately 70%)
--two take home essays (approximately 30%)

Attendance will be taken into account in a significant manner in the final computation of your grade. Students who accumulate more than three (unexcused) absences will have points deducted from their final grade according to the discretion of the instructor.

I encourage students to make an appointment to see me during the semester; I do not enjoy teaching a classroom of strangers.

WEEK**(TENTATIVE) TOPICS**

WEEKS I--IV	Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics Overview of Major Ethical Traditions READ: will be placed on library reserve
WEEK V	Social Stratification; Moral Luck
WEEK VI	Distribution of Wealth and Income READ: Ch. I (articles: Hospers; Nielson; Wyman Case; Plyler Case).
WEEK VII	Euthanasia; Physician Assisted Suicide READ: Ch. III (articles: Rachels; Steinbock; Cruzan Case)
WEEK VIII	Affirmative Action READ: Ch. V (articles: Ezorsky; Murray; Adarand Case).
WEEK IX	Pornography READ: Ch. VII (articles: American Booksellers Case; MacKinnon)
WEEK X	Human Sexuality: Diversity; Deviance; Tolerance; Morality READ: Ch. IX
WEEK XI	Privacy, Substances, Testing READ: TBA
WEEK XII	Communitarianism: Reflections on the Nature of Rights and Community
WEEKS XIII-- Remainder of Semester	Unresolved Issues: Hume or Kant: Sentiments and Reason Hegel or UN Charter on Universal Rights? Christian Ethics in a Diverse World? Role of Government in the moral life of its citizens?