

PNM

PHILOSOPHY 105: ETHICS
Fall, 2000

Dr. Jim Christiana, SM
Office: H 206 A (735-4880)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I have designed this course to serve as an introduction to some of the major writers and philosophical perspectives in the history of ethics and to explore some of the seminal issues and controversies in the area of applied ethics.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- James Sterba's *Morality in Practice* (6th ed.)
- several articles will be placed on library reserve.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE:

Approximately half of the course will consist of lectures by the instructor; half of our classes will provide opportunities for students to participate in group discussion and respond to class materials.

Since dialogue and discourse are essential in the philosophical process, they will constitute an essential part of our philosophical experience together **in an atmosphere of mutual respect**. The following constitute such an atmosphere:

Everyone in this course (instructor and students alike) is expected to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect.

**this includes coming to class on time; being courteous and respectful during class; not interrupting or otherwise distracting someone (including the instructor) when they are speaking; not utilizing the myriad of electronic communication devices which are everywhere in abundance; not utilizing materials which are extraneous to our class; turning in of assignments on time; being present on the scheduled exam dates; etc.*

**Regular class attendance is expected. Students who accumulate more than three unexcused absences will begin to have their overall course grade lowered (regardless of their exam scores) in a manner which is totally up to the discretion of the instructor.*

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:**

- four exams (essay format; bluebooks) (approximately 80%)
 - one paper (typed; 5 pages in length) (approximately 20%)
- Attendance will be taken on a regular basis throughout the semester. 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--V	Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics Overview of Major Ethical Traditions READ: will be placed on library reserve
WEEK VI	Social Stratification; Moral Luck
WEEK VI/VII	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: Pojman; Mosley; Murray; Hopwood Case).
WEEK IX	Pornography READ: Ch. VII (articles: MacKinnon; Kaminer)
WEEK X	Human Sexuality: Diversity; Deviance; Tolerance; Morality READ: Ch. IX
WEEK XI	Communitarianism: Reflections on the Nature of Rights and Community
WEEKS XII--	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?

Students should note that the date and time for the last/final examination for all courses at CHAMINADE are found in the Schedule of Classes (published by the Registrar).