

PM SD 100

**PHILOSOPHY 105: ETHICS**  
**TuTh 9:30--10:50 H 202**  
**Spring 2000**

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

**I. 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.

**II. TEXTS:**

- several articles will be placed on library reserve throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to xerox these articles for their own use.
- James Sterba's *Morality in Practice* (5th ed.) is the required text for this course.

**III. 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 material. 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.**

**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:**

- 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**

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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--	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). Our last exam, regardless of format, is on Monday May 8 at 8:00 AM. It is the responsibility of all students to be present at this time.