

**WEEK****TENTATIVE COURSE MATERIAL OUTLINE:****I--VI****An introduction to cultural constructs of the SELF:  
the ARCHAIC (and MODERN) perspectives**

- \*Archaic metanarratives**
- \*Archaic ethics**
- \*teleological and virtue ethics**

**READ: CARTER, chapters I--III; V.****VII--XII****How to approach an ARCHAIC text in the modern world**

- \*the Bible (Scripture) in its own culture and in ours**
- \*How to situate a text**
- \*Ethics and scripture**
- \*the archaic and modern assumptions**

**READ: CARTER, chapters VII--XI****READ: KOTVA, TBA****XIII--  
end of semester****The development of Christianity and its many  
ethical traditions****READ: CARTER, XII--XIV****READ: KOTVA, TBA**

PM

**RE/PH/SO 338**  
**Religion, Philosophy & Social Ethics**  
**Fall, 2000**

**Jim Christiana, SM**  
**H: 206A/ 735-4880**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to present students with an interdisciplinary study of ethics drawing upon the rich traditions and perspectives of the social sciences, religion, and the humanities. Although this is primarily a lecture course, ample time will be made for group discussions so that we may all have the opportunity to learn from one another.

Special emphasis will be placed on these interrelated topics:

- \*different cultural understandings of the concept of SELF
- \*the history and problems of Christian Sacred Texts and Ethics
- \*the relationship between crisis ethics and virtue ethics

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- \*Stephen Carter, *Integrity*
- \*Joseph Kotva, *The Christian Case for Virtue Ethics*
- \*a copy of the Bible (which contains both the so called OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS)
- \*Additional readings will be placed on library reserve throughout the semester.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE AND GRADING:**

**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.

Students are never automatically entitled to turn in assignments late or to have makeup exams. Should permission be given for late assignments or for makeup exams, the penalties and formats will be up to the discretion of the instructor.

There will be 4--5 essay exams throughout the semester (at least 2 will be take home assignments). Each exam will have equal weight in the determination of the final grade.