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Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Evening Program
January 11 - March 24, 1999
Fort Shafter

COURSE: RE/SO 33840
Religion, Philosophy and Social Ethics

TIME: Saturdays 12:30 - 16:40

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

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TEXTBOOK:
May, L., Collins-Chobanion, S., Wong, K., eds. 2nd. ed. 1998.
APPLIED ETHICS: A MULTICULTURAL APPROACH, Upper Saddle River,
NJ: Prentice Hall.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION:

Ethical problems and issues are both personal and social concerns. This course is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks to understand social ethics from the perspectives of religion, philosophy and sociology. Students will explore and analyze critically the contemporary ethical issues cross-culturally. This class will emphasize a multicultural approach to study and examine ethical systems and related social policies.

CLASS OBJECTIVE:

- *to survey different case studies of ethical issues.
- *to critically review the affect of religion on cultural and social change.
- *to understand and apply different approaches to the study of issues involved in social ethics.
- *to analyze factors related to problems and issues in social ethics.
- *to examine various alternatives and possibilities to create ethical social policies.

CLASS FORMAT:

This class will be an interactive, cooperative learning experience for the students and the instructor. The format integrates lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, role plays, and debates. Students are encouraged and expected to actively participate in class activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to be open minded and courteous in class discussion and to participate regularly in class activities. Each student is expected to carefully read the assigned chapter in the textbook and be prepared to discuss it for the class period of the assignment.

Only registered students are allowed to be in class.

All students will be graded on the following requirements:

- *come to class on time and stay for the whole period.
- *be courteous and professional in class discussions i.e. take turn in speaking, allow others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and non-verbal language.
- *show respect and open mind to different ideas and opinions from class members.
- *turn in assignments on time.
- *be responsible to cooperate and complete class/team projects on time.

GRADING:

The grading will be based on

1. Class attendance 10 pts.
2. Class participation 15 pts.
(chapter report of main points)
3. Class project written report 20 pts.
DUE ON THE DAY OF THE CLASS PRESENTATION ON 3/20/99
4. Oral presentation of #3 on 3/20/99 10 pts.
5. Reflection journal 15 pts.
(On three selected topics discussed in class)
6. Mid term take-home exam 30 pts.

90-100 =A, 80-89 =B, 70-79 =C, 60-69 =D, 59 AND BELOW=F

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students will be assigned to read chapter(s) from the textbooks and to turn in the following on the day when they take a leading role in class discussion:

- 1) a 1-2 page (typed double-spaced) summary of the chapter(s) including
- 2) 3 main points from the reading clearly stated in bullet or number format, and
- 3) 3 analytical questions for class discussion.

CLASS PROJECT:

The purpose of the class project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from the classroom to real life experience. Students may choose to work on one of these two projects:

- 1) To survey people on one of the issues of social ethics. Students are required to use a conceptual framework to analyze the findings. This survey may include interviewing and may be supplemented by information gathered by documentary research.

The length of the written report should be 7-10 pages (typed double-spaced) including bibliography.

- 2) To participate in the Service Learning Program at Chaminade. Students may volunteer their time (at least 10 hours) to work for a non-profit organization that would provide them with an opportunity to learn about social policies that reflect and affect the livelihood of people in society. Students are required to analyze this experience by applying a conceptual framework learned from this class.

The length of the written report should be 3-5 pages (typed double-spaced).

Students are allowed 10 minutes to orally present the report to class.

Plagiarized work will lead to failure of the course and be reported to the university for disciplinary action.

CLASS PRESENTATION:

Each student will have 10 minutes to share their project with the class. The oral report should be a brief summary of the student's written report. Reading from the written report is discouraged and points will be taken off. The grade will be based on the style of presentation, the ability to deliver information succinctly, and being conscientious about the 10 minute time slot by not going over the time limit for each student.

REFLECTION JOURNAL:

Each student is required to select three specific topics of interest and write a reflection on each of these topics in the journal. Each journal must be typed double spaced. The total number of the journal entries is three. Each stage of the journal is due on the day specified in the syllabus class schedule. Each entry will be graded for its brief and insightful information and also for the fulfillment of the contents requirement. The contents of each entry should include:

- 1) reflective understanding of the chosen topics;
- 2) insightful comment on the topics; and
- 3) 1-2 analytical question(s) about each topic.

All students' work will be graded for:

- *knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class lectures, discussion, videos, resources from research, outside class activities.
- *ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- *ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- *logical presentation with clarity.
- *demonstration of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- *demonstration of achieving the objectives of this class.
- *ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Students must turn in all class assignments and the exam in class on time. Points will be taken off for turning in assignments late. All works turned in must be typed double spaced.

ONLY PRINTED/TYPED COPY WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXAM AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR FAX.

SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u> (Chapter)
JANUARY		
16	Orientation and Introduction	

23	Human Rights-Environmental Ethics	pp. 25-180

30	Hunger and Poverty War and Violence	pp.181-262 pp. 263-326
JOURNAL #1 DUE		

FEBRUARY		
6	Gender Roles and Morality	pp.327-394

13	Racial and Ethnic Discrimination	pp.395-456
DISTRIBUTION OF MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAM QUESTIONS		

20	INDIVIDUAL WORK ON CLASS PROJECT	

27	MID-TERM EXAM DUE	
	The AIDS Epidemic	pp. 457-530

MARCH		
6	Abortion	pp.531-584
JOURNAL # 2 DUE		

13	Euthanasia and Sustaining Life	pp. 585-651
JOURNAL # 3 DUE		

20	CLASS PRESENTATION CLASS PROJECT REPORT DUE	
