

PHILOSOPHY 105: ETHICS
Fall 2006/H-202

Jim Christiana, SM
Office: H 105 (735-4880)
Jchristi@chaminade.edu

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: *The study of the concepts of good and bad, right and wrong has a long history. This course will study the origins and legitimacy of our standards of conduct and character and will discuss modern studies that consider the compelling and unconditional overtones of ethical demands. The course will also discuss the ways in which we talk to our children and young people about what is right and wrong.*

Goals and Objectives:

I have designed this course to be 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.

Students will demonstrate:

*Knowledge of some of the seminal thoughts and contributions of Plato; Aristotle; Stoicism; Utilitarianism; Duty and Christian Ethics.

*The ability to engage in philosophical dialogue concerning both major philosophical traditions and select problems in the area of applied ethics.

*The ability to read, reflect upon, and engage in critical thinking about primary philosophical texts.

REQUIRED TEXT:

--James Sterba's *Morality in Practice* (7th ed.)
-- (At least four bluebooks)

STRUCTURE OF COURSE:

Approximately half of the course will consist of lectures; half of our classes will provide opportunities for students to participate in group discussion and respond to class materials. Since dialogue is essential in the philosophical process, it will constitute an essential part of our philosophical experience together **in an atmosphere of mutual respect.**

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 to other forms of extensions. It is always up to the discretion of the instructor if and when and how makeup exams or extensions are given and with what grade penalties the instructor decides. Students who are not present on the days that exams are administered must ask the instructor for permission to take a make up exam. All make up exams will be significantly more difficult than the regular exam. These exams will either be given during class time or will be administered orally by the instructor.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

--Approximately four essay exams, each of equal weight. This includes a non-cumulative final exam given during finals week.

<i>WEEK</i>	<i>(TENTATIVE) TOPICS</i>
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WEEKS I--III	Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics Overview of Major Ethical Traditions READ: TBA (to be announced)
WEEK IV--VI	Continuation of the above; Social Stratification; Moral Luck Distribution of Wealth and Income READ: Section I (article by Hospers) Section II (article by Blum)
WEEK VI/VII	Euthanasia; Physician Assisted Suicide READ: Section III (article by Rachels)
WEEK VIII	Affirmative Action READ: Section V (articles: Pojman; Murray)
WEEK IX	Pornography READ: Section VII (articles: MacKinnon; Kaminer)
WEEK X--XII	Human Sexuality: Diversity; Deviance; Tolerance; Morality READ: Section IX (all articles)
WEEK XII--end	Communitarianism: Reflections on the Nature of Rights and Community READ: Section VIII (Gunter; Lawrence) READ: Section X (articles by Kellerman and Reay; Polsby and Kates)

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

Mutual Respect In the Classroom

Respect Yourself:

- *Personal inventory of your gifts and growth issues
- *Thou shall not fall down and worship false idols and screens

Respect Your Peers:

- *Listening is neither a sin nor a crime
- *Zipping up early is rude
- *Using one another is immoral

The Class Environment:

- *Punctuality is not a vice and is much appreciated
- *We are not on a picnic or a joy ride; be entertained elsewhere
- *Please turn off and remove from public view all cell phones, entertainment devices, and all that is not part of the learning process
- *No entertainment; no food

My Respect for You:

- *I owe you my punctuality and a whole lot more:
- *Not to keep you overtime
- *To be organized and not waste your time in our class
- *Timely feedback on your work and thoughts

Additional Comments:

- *There is a time for lecture, a time for questions, a time for discussion
- *Class handouts and the responsibility that is yours
- *The single most annoying of questions: don't ask it

The National Culture:

- *Cheating and Downloading