Course Syllabus

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Course Description

This class will investigate a range of moral issues, including capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, affirmative action, poverty and racism, terrorism and war, sexuality and marriage, pornography and drugs, animal rights and the environment. Along the way we will examine a variety of ethical theories. Our aims will be to understand better the complexities of the moral realm, to enable students to develop their own moral reasoning skills and to strengthen their own social ethics.

Required Textbooks:


Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

1) Students will examine a variety of moral theories

2) Students will become familiar with
   - the key perspectives involved in each of the several moral issues
   - the harmony and conflict between legislation and morality
   - the harmony and conflict between objective and subjective guilt & virtue
   - the harmony and conflict between personal and social values

3) Students will clarify their own personal and social ethics in relation to the classical moral theories and codes of ethics
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Course Requirements

- Attendance (24% of grade)
- Review questions and reflection papers (44% of grade)
  - 16 sets of review questions for 16 articles assigned in *Contemporary Moral Problems*
  - 6 300-word reflection papers on 6 chapters in *Unprotected*
- Research paper (24% of grade)
  - 8 page paper on an ethical / moral issue of the student’s choice.
- Oral Presentation (8% of grade)
  - A 10-minute oral presentation and defense of the research paper

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
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Academic Dishonesty Policy  (See page 169 of catalog)

Disability Statement: If a student is in need of an accommodation based on the impact of your disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Students with Disabilities for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities, I encourage you to do so. Just a reminder, requests for accommodations are not retroactive.
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Attendance Policy

Attendance counts as 24% of the grade (one point for every hour of class time). The last class is most important because the student must make an oral presentation of the research paper. The oral presentation adds 8 points to the last class, bringing the total attendance points to 32% of the grade. Some attendance points missed may be made up by extra homework assignments, but points from the last class cannot.

Course Schedule

May 6, 2008

Assignments:

introductions
syllabus
theories and codes of ethics
issues and instructions for research paper

May 13, 2008

Abortion

Read pages 78 – 105 in Unprotected. Write 300 words of reflection on this chapter.
Read pages 82-103 in Contemporary Moral Problems. Write answers to review questions (not the discussion questions) on pages 98 and 103.

Euthanasia

Read pages 155-165 in Contemporary Moral Problems. Write answers to review questions (not discussion questions) on pages 159 and 165.

May 20, 2008

Assignments:

Sexuality and Marriage

Reflection paper (300 words) on chapter 1, 300 words on chapter 2 + 300 words on chapter 4 of Unprotected.
Read pages 257-266 in Contemporary Moral Problems; answer review questions on p. 266.
May 27, 2008

Assignments:

Addiction and Drugs
Read pages 281-298; answer review questions on pp. 288 & 298 in *Contemporary Moral Problems*. Reflection paper (300 words) on chapter 7 + 300 words on chapter 8 in *Unprotected*.

Capital Punishment
Read pages 200-212 in *Contemporary Moral Problems*; answer review questions on pp. 209.

June 3, 2008

Affirmative Action
Read pages 384-392; answer review questions on pp. 392.

Poverty

Racism

June 10, 2008

Animal rights

The environment

June 17, 2008

War and Terrorism
Read pages 406-431; answer review questions on pp. 419 and 431 in *Contemporary Moral Problems*.

June 24, 2008

Assignments:

Oral Presentations of research papers
8-page research paper due at beginning of class

10-minute oral presentations during class

No Pre-class assignment